

## Arafat to Russia ahead of Rabin visit

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was flying to Russia on Monday for an official visit ahead of a trip by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Palestinian officials said. After Moscow, Mr. Arafat is to pay an official visit to Romania on Thursday and Friday where he may meet Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, the officials said. "If Mr. Peres is there, no doubt Arafat will meet him," PLO officials said. Mr. Arafat is expected to address an international economic forum in the Romanian capital Bucharest on Friday. The officials said that while in Russia, a co-sponsor of the Middle East peace talks, Mr. Arafat will hold talks with President Boris Yeltsin and other leaders about the peace negotiations. Mr. Rabin will be in Russia April 24-26 on the first official visit of an Israeli leader since the re-establishment of diplomatic ties during the waning days of the Soviet Union.

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# King: No peace without Jerusalem

*No to peace that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Jerusalem or full Palestinian rights to their land*  
**Amman gathering marks completion of renovation of holy shrines**

## Brunei leader fetes King

KING HUSSEIN on Monday contacted Sultan Hassan Bulkiyah of Brunei and discussed with him bilateral relations and Islamic and other issues of common concern. The Sultan of Brunei congratulated the King on the completion of the renovation of the Dome of the Rock Mosque describing it as a historic achievement which shows the role of the Hashemites in preserving the Islamic shrines.

**Malaysia gives \$50,000**  
The Malaysian minister of Islamic affairs presented a donation of \$50,000 to the committee entrusted with following up and supervising renovation work at the Al Aqsa and Dome of the Rock mosques.

The donation was presented to Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Al Abbadi at a meeting during which the two ministers discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Malaysian relations in Islamic fields.

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday reiterated that no comprehensive peace between Israel and the Arabs would be possible without the restoration of Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem.

"We say no to any proposed solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem..." King Hussein told an audience of about 2,500 people gathered at the Palace of Culture to celebrate the completion of the restoration work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem.

The restoration, which was financed by an \$8.4 million private donation of King Hussein, was carried out by an Irish company which began work in 1991.

Speaking from a podium against a backdrop depicting the Old City of Jerusalem and the Dome of the Rock and Al Aqsa Mosques, the King spoke with hope that Jerusalem "would eventually become a token and symbol of peace for all the faithful children of Abraham."

Addressing an audience of foreign and Jordanian dignitaries, the King, who was flanked on the podium by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid and Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Salam Abbadi, called the restoration of the Dome of the Rock Mosque "one of my dearest achievements."

See page 5 for full text of King Hussein's speech

Monday's events included the "live coverage" on 12 television screens placed inside the Palace of Culture by Cable News Network (CNN), of the unveiling of the restoration works in Jerusalem, said host of Monday's ceremonies, Mahmoud Al Sherif, a former minister and renowned journalist.

"Jerusalem," the King told the audience, which included representatives of 25 Muslim and Arab countries, "represents our common memory and our common faith."



A committee in charge of renovating the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem on Monday presents to

His Majesty a golden key to the Holy City (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Since Arab-Israeli peace talks were launched in Madrid in October 1991, Jordan has continuously stressed the importance of Arab rights in Jerusalem and has emphasised the need for Muslims to have control and access to and over

Muslim holy shrines in the Holy City. The Oslo accord that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel signed in September puts off discussion about the future of Jerusalem until 1995.

Israeli leaders have consistently said that the status of Jerusalem was "not negotiable."

Along with the right of return of refugees to pre-1967

(Continued on page 10)

## Lebanon cuts ties with Iraq

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon severed its diplomatic ties with Iraq on Monday after Baghdad refused to lift the immunity of two detained diplomats suspected of killing an Iraqi dissident in Beirut last week, ministers said.

Ministers who attended an emergency session of the Syrian-backed government of Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri told reporters the cabinet voted unanimously to cut ties with Iraq.

Minister of State Hassan Izzeeddine said: "The cabinet has unanimously voted for severing ties with Baghdad."

severing ties with Baghdad."

Baghdad last week rejected a Lebanese request to lift the immunity of Culture Attaché Khaled Khatem and Commercial Attaché Khaled Khalaf and hand over an embassy guard seeking refuge at the Iraqi embassy complex in Beirut.

The two diplomats, who Lebanese officials said had confessed to the murder, were detained hours after the April 12 killing of wealthy dissident Taleh Al Suheili at his home in Beirut.

## Sarid: Israel could return Golan to Syria for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A key Israeli minister and senior peace negotiator said on Monday the Jewish state should give up its claims of sovereignty on the Golan Heights in return for peace and normal relations with Syria.

The comments by Environment Minister Yossi Sarid followed Israeli newspaper reports on Sunday that Israel will give U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher a proposal to deliver to Syria later this month.

The plan called for an unspecified pullout from the heights. A Syrian government spokesman in Damascus said Syria would reject any Israeli proposal that did not include a clear readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan Heights which Israel seized in their 1967 war.

Responding to the newspaper reports carried by Israeli radio, the Syrian spokesman commented:

"The proposal is centred on achieving big gains for Israel such as diplomatic ties, normalisation and security arrangements. This confirms there is nothing new in the Israeli position," he said.

"Syria will never accept anything less than full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan... is Israel ready to return the land, the whole land? This is the question that needs to be answered."

Syria has long demanded a complete and unconditional Israeli pullout in exchange for a normalisation of ties, while Mr. Rabin in the past has indicated a willingness to give up parts of the Heights.

The two states have technically been in a state of war since the establishment of Israel in 1948.

Syria's official newspapers were sceptical of the reports, chaffing they were a red herring to avoid a peace treaty with Syria.

"Israel's game of work papers is no more than a new pretext to evade the prerequisites of the peace process and withdrawal from the Golan and other occupied Arab lands," said the Tishrin daily.

It added that Israel's proposals for the principles of settlement with Syria focus on "gaining Israel huge benefits, a matter which demonstrates that the prevaricating Israeli stance is still unchangeable."

"What Israel has called a document over withdrawal from the Golan," said the Al Baath newspaper, "would not be taken into consideration unless it implies a clear and an outspoken text about a full pullout from the Golan and not in the Golan."

"Syria will never accept anything short of this plain text... otherwise Israel has brought nothing new," said the paper, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party.

On Sunday, a Baath Party official charged that the United States and other countries were encouraging Israel to impede the peace process.

"Israel has been encouraged in doing so by lack of decisiveness on the part of the international community and failure to force it to implement U.N. resolutions" calling for a settlement based on land for peace, said Baath Assistant Secretary-General Abdullah Al Ahmar.

He criticised a recent announcement that Washington intends to sell 25 new F-15 fighter-bombers to Israel.

Mr. Sarid, of the dovish Meretz Party, said Israel must

he convinced of its safety under strict security arrangements.

"Israel must be prepared to give up its sovereignty on the Golan Heights, because without giving up sovereignty on the Golan it will not be possible to push forward the peace process and reach a positive result," he told Israel Radio.

Mr. Sarid, who has helped lead the Israeli team in negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said Israel did not have a case for its territorial claims to the Golan Heights, where some 15,000 Jewish settlers live among 18,000 Syrians.

But he added: "Israel does have a case for justified demands for security."

"The moment that security is guaranteed, the importance of the territory for its own sake goes down decisively."

He said he believed a majority of Israelis would back such a peace, because it would lead to a comprehensive settlement with Lebanon, Jordan and the Palestinians, the other parties to sluggish Middle East talks that began in October 1991.

Mr. Sarid has in the past voiced positions well ahead of their serious consideration by the more centrist cabinet.

Mr. Rabin has said publicly Israel could make a partial pullback but will not discuss it until Syria says if peace means full ties.

Haretz newspaper on Monday said one peace plan presented to Mr. Rabin by an unnamed government body included a full withdrawal from the Heights after a 10-year waiting period.

But Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said: "I don't

## Self-rule talks continue after acrimony; but still in trouble

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegates who stormed out of self-rule talks with Israel at the weekend returned on Monday but their chief negotiator said the two sides could not agree on terms of an Israeli amnesty for Palestinian prisoners.

In Amman, the PLO leader in the occupied territories said the negotiators must agree soon or the situation would deteriorate in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"I believe the situation is so dangerous and any more delay will only come with more negative results," Faisal Al Hussein told Reuters after attending celebrations marking the restoration of Jerusalem's Dome of the Rock.

The PLO is insisting that the amnesty cover members of Hamas, which opposes the self-rule talks with Israel in Cairo.

PLO delegates Mohammad Dahlan and Jibril Al Rojoud walked out on Sunday in protest at Israel's refusal to increase the number of Palestinian prisoners scheduled for release.

"We are negotiating on behalf of all the prisoners," Mr. Dahlan told reporters before going back into the talks.

Discussions on an amnesty for Palestinian prisoners, who number over 8,000, are part of negotiations covering practical details on Israeli withdrawal and Palestinian rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath, asked whether there were problems on the prisoners, replied with uncharacteristic pessimism: "There is a problem with everything."

The PLO has demanded the release of all the prisoners. But Israel has offered to set free only 5,000, saying it cannot free those Hamas supporters who might carry out acts of violence.

In the past two weeks members of Hamas have killed 12 Israelis in two suicide bombings.

"Hopefully today some progress will be reached and the gap between the two sides will get narrower," Palestinian delegate Zohdi Kudra said.

Mr. Hussein, asked if they might agree this week, said: "We are doing our best. But

unfortunately the Israelis are still coming with unacceptable solutions."

Israel's stand on prisoners is embarrassing to the PLO which wants to win the sympathy of opponents of the agreement by showing them that the peace deal is a national, not a factional, affair.

A PLO delegate who declined to be named said the negotiators had instructions from the organisation's headquarters in Tunis to stand firm on demands for the release of 8,300 prisoners.

He said on the question of water rights in Gaza, the PLO team also had instructions to demand that Jewish settlers and Palestinians be allocated water supplies relative to the size of their populations there.

He said Jewish settlers, who make up a small minority of Gaza's inhabitants, received a disproportionate share of water.

Jamil Tarifi, head of the PLO's negotiating team on civilian issues, said the Palestinians demanded the right to control water supplies and resources in the self-rule areas.

## Passports of Hamas activists withheld

By Nermeen Murad  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian authorities have withdrawn the passports of Hamas representative in Jordan Mohammad Nazzal and Hamas spokesman Ibrahim Goshbeh, pending their decision on whether to comply with Jordanian regulations.

Official sources said the two men were summoned by the authorities and asked to "decide whether they are Palestinian — in which case they would be given a temporary two-year passport given to residents of the occupied territories, or they are Jordanian citizens who comply with Jordanian laws."

The sources said the two were also asked to refrain from making any statements claiming responsibility for attacks in the occupied territories.

A senior Jordanian official told the Jordan Times that the government had intended to curb the activities of Hamas in

Jordan without much publicity but was pressured to publicise these measures after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin issued a warning to Jordan charging that it was helping Hamas.

"We had already instructed the minister of interior to deal with the issue before Rabin had his press conference," the senior official said.

Hamas representatives were not available for comment Monday, but the movement issued a statement charging that Mr. Rabin was "creating fictitious conflicts to cover up for his political failure."

The prime minister of the enemy Yitzhak Rabin has issued a warning to Jordan in which he claimed that there is a leadership for Hamas on its territory and demanding that the Jordanian government take action against its activities.

"It is a failed attempt to use the confirmation by the Hamas

## Palestinian wounded after attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — A Palestinian armed with an axe and two firebombs attacked passengers on a commuter bus Monday before being shot and wounded by a soldier, police said. Four Israelis were wounded.

Two passengers were wounded by axe blows and two by the soldier who opened fire when the bus pulled to a halt outside an army base on the edge of Jerusalem, said police commissioner Rafi Peled.

Mr. Peled said the assailant belonged to Hamas. Israel Radio's Arabic language service reported that an anonymous caller claimed responsibility for the attack on behalf of Hamas.

The attacker was a 25-year-old Palestinian from Shuafat, a Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood close to the scene of the attack, Mr. Peled said.

The attack occurred on a red-and-white Tandem bus at about 2:15 p.m. near the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Neveh Yacov, which borders on the West Bank. Blood stained the road, a thoroughfare linking Jerusalem with the

West Bank town of Ramallah. The wounded Israelis were described as being in "stable to serious condition." The attacker, who was shot in the leg, was in fair condition, the radio said.

Passenger Eli Tubul said the Palestinian launched his attack from the front of the bus. "He started shouting 'Allahu Akbar' and began hitting people," he said.

The attack follows two suicide bomb attacks this month in which buses were targeted and 12 Israelis were killed and 73 wounded. Those attacks were also claimed by Hamas, which opposes the Israel-PLO negotiations.

Mr. Peled said police were consulting with Egged, Israel's main bus company, to improve security, but that it was impossible to prevent all attacks in a mixed city like Jerusalem.

Also Monday, an Israeli daily reported that Israel's domestic intelligence chief told the government he expects chaos and bloodshed among Palestinians once the army withdraws from the occupied Gaza Strip. The assessment raises ques-

tions about two basic assumptions of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian autonomy — that there will be an orderly transfer of power and that the PLO can take firm control.

The head of the Shin Bet secret service, responsible for intelligence gathering in the territories, gave his evaluation Sunday to the cabinet's weekly meeting, said Yedioth Ahronoth, a mass-circulation daily. The Shin Bet director, whose name is kept secret by law, predicted chaos and massacres among the Palestinians.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, on Monday refused comment on the assessment, which follows recent reports from Gaza and the West Bank of infighting among armed Palestinian factions.

The PLO's strongest rival in Gaza is Hamas, which opposes the autonomy accord. PLO sources have said there have been meetings between the two factions on how to prevent friction and bloodshed once autonomy begins.

(Continued on page 10)



## Saddam says allies wanted to blame Iraq for U.S. mistake

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein said Sunday Washington was forced to concede that its fighter jets had shot down two American helicopters in northern Iraq, because not all the victims were Americans or citizens of allied nations.

Speaking to army officers, President Saddam said the United States, Britain and France were involved in a "vicious pre-meditated plot" against Iraq.

But the effort floundered because "there were some victims of other nationalities and a joint investigation would have exposed the truth," he said, in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News Agency.

President Saddam spoke at a military rally marking the anniversary of the recapture of the Fao Peninsula from Iran in the closing weeks of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, said the agency. It did not say where the rally took place.

Tehran's official news agency, meanwhile, claimed that Israeli delegates were aboard the helicopters.

Citing unnamed sources "close to the self-proclaimed Kurdish government" in northern Iraq, the Islamic Republic

News Agency (IRNA) said the Israelis were en route to secret meetings with Kurdish officials.

Because of the Israelis' presence and the confidential nature of their mission, allied air forces patrolling Iraq's northern skies above the 36th Parallel had not been notified beforehand of the helicopters' trip.

Both the Iranian and Iraqi agencies were monitored in Cyprus.

Washington said two American F-15 jet fighters inadvertently shot down the U.S. helicopters over northern Iraq Thursday, killing 26 people. The Pentagon said the victims were 15 Americans, five Kurds, three Turks, two Britons and a Frenchman.

Initial reports distributed by Kurdish officials whose forces control the region said Iraqi fighting jets had shot down the helicopters.

Reports of cooperation between Israel and Iraqi Kurds who have sought to oust the Iraqi regime have surfaced before. But these could not be verified.

Services held for victims

Memorial services were held

in southern Turkey on Sunday for people killed when the two helicopters were shot down in northern Iraq.

U.S. officials said U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch and Admiral William Owens, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, attended the services at Turkey's Incirlik air base.

The Blackhawk helicopters were carrying the officers and Kurds to a remote Kurdish village as part of the Operation Provide Comfort initiative.

The Turks were identified as Colonel Hikmet Alp and lieutenant Barlas Gultepe and Ceyhan Civas.

Gulcin Alp, the colonel's widow, said she would sue the U.S. government if the pilots were found to have erred in the incident, the newspaper Hurriyet reported on Sunday.

The helicopters went down near the Kurdish village of Tokza, 30 kilometres east of Aqrah. The area is about 40 kilometres south of the Turkish border and 80 kilometres north of the 36th Parallel, the southern limit of the no-fly zone.

Reporters were not allowed into the base for the services.

## IAEA head visits Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Tehran on Monday to discuss nuclear cooperation with Iran, a country U.S. officials allege is engaged in clandestine efforts to build nuclear weapons.

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), monitored in Cyprus, said Hans Blix, head of the Vienna-based nuclear watchdog, was on a two-day visit. It said he would meet with Vice President Hassan Habibi, Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayat and Reza Amrollahi, head of Iran's atomic energy programme.

IRNA did not elaborate on Mr. Blix's visit, or say whether he would be inspecting any nuclear facilities. It said he would "discuss cooperation between the IAEA and the Atomic Energy Organisation of Iran."

In June, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher accused Iran of engaging in a secret programme to acquire nuclear and chemical weapons. He urged America's European allies to deny technology to Iran which could be used for military purposes.

Iran, a signatory of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, has said it wants nuclear energy for peaceful purposes but is uninterested in trying to obtain an atom bomb.

Iranian officials say doubts expressed in the United States and elsewhere about Tehran's nuclear programme are politically motivated. Washington considers Iran a rogue state on grounds it supports international terrorism.

An IAEA mission to Iran in February 1992 reported nothing suspicious. Public statements by IAEA officials after the trip were criticised by some in the West as overly credulous.

In November, IAEA inspectors, equipped with fresh intelligence from the United States, again visited Iran, but reported no evidence of wrongdoing.

Despite IAEA inspections, Iraq came close to building an atom bomb. That was discovered only after the Gulf war.

Iran's only functioning nuclear reactor is a small research facility at Tehran University. That reactor is incapable of providing the kind of enriched uranium needed to build a nuclear bomb.

Iranian opposition groups charges that the Iranians are trying to piece together a nuclear weapons programme with equipment from the former Soviet Union.

A string of reports about Iran transferring nuclear weapons from the Commonwealth of Independent States have not been confirmed. One report alleging Iran had transferred weapons from Kazakhstan was denied by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) last year.

U.S. intelligence reports say it would take Iran at least 10 years to build its own nuclear bomb.

Under pressure from the United States, several countries have refused to export nuclear technology to Iran.

Last year Washington succeeded in dissuading India and the Czech Republic from selling nuclear technology to Iran.

No such pledges have been made by Pakistan, which has admitted to having nuclear weapons capability, and by North Korea, which Washington suspects of having the technology and knowhow.

Every year, both North Korea and Pakistan exchange military visits with Iran.

Last year China agreed to build a 300-megawatt nuclear power plant in Iran under IAEA supervision over U.S. protests.

## France throws up barrier to Algerian refugee 'wave'

PARIS (R) — Interior Minister Charles Pasqua has said France would refuse to accept any "wave" of refugees fleeing Algeria if Muslim fundamentalists took power in the country.

Mr. Pasqua, a tough-talking politician whose hardline policies have proved popular, also accused French judges of twisting his tough immigration laws in an interview published on Monday.

Asked about the possible effects of a victory of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria, a former French territory, Mr. Pasqua told the conservative daily Le Figaro:

"It is out of the question that we would accept a wave of people coming from Algeria. We would not be able to take in tens of thousands of people."

This has nothing to do with the right of asylum, which is a

right of the individual. It is about the exodus of a population."

Italy and Spain would also face the same problem, he said.

Mr. Pasqua said the number of asylum requests made to French authorities by Algerians had climbed from 104 in 1992 to a little over 1,000 last year.

"It is obvious that if the situation was to worsen in Algeria, we would risk receiving a greater number of requests," he said.

Diplomatic sources said Paris fears a collapse of state authority could spur upwards of half a million Algerians to flee to France. Several thousand are already believed to be staying with relatives in France on tourist visas.

At least 3,500 Algerians have been killed in civil strife since an army-backed council

cancelled a general election in January 1992 in which the FIS had taken a commanding lead.

Mr. Pasqua was the architect of tougher nationality and immigration laws enacted in mid-1993 to meet right-wing voters' demands for a crackdown on foreigners.

Saying the role of judges was to enforce these laws, he denounced what he called "an attempt by certain judges to create a jurisprudence which is against the law."

Two found dead

A kidnapped top official in Algeria's Religious Affairs Ministry, and a lawyer, have been found dead in a southern district of Algiers, the country's security services said.

The ministry official, Belkacem Abadi, was kidnapped last Wednesday from his home in the Muslim fundamentalist district of Larba, 25 kilometres

south of the capital. His body was discovered in the suburb of Sidi-Moussa on Wednesday.

State television said he was a ministry inspector while the official news agency AFS, termed him a sub-director in the department.

The body of lawyer Ibrahim Benghanem was found on Saturday in his office, also in Sidi-Moussa. He is the first lawyer known to have been killed since violence erupted after the authorities cancelled a general election in January 1992.

At least 10 magistrates have died since last May in attacks blamed by officials on Muslim activists.

The security forces said that in the past week they had killed 11 armed Islamists in various operations, during which two of their own men were wounded.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Amal militia commander killed by bomb

NABATIYEH (AP) — The military commander of the Syrian-backed mainstream Shiite Muslim Amal movement was killed in a booby-trapped car blast Monday, police reported. Nimeh Haider, 34, was torn to pieces as he turned the key in the ignition of his car to go to work near this southern Lebanese market town around 8 a.m. (0500 GMT), according to police. They said an explosive charge wired to the engine was planted under the drivers seat, but added they had no motive for the killing. Mr. Haider escaped at least two previous assassination attempts during Amal's war with its Shiite rivals, the Iranian-backed fundamentalist Hizbollah; from 1987 to 1990. An estimated 1,100 people were killed and 3,200 wounded in the struggle to master Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, who make up the largest single sect among the country's four million people.

### Yemeni gets death sentence for extremism

HADRAMAWT, Yemen (AP) — The Hadramawt appeals court on Monday sentenced a Muslim fundamentalist to death on charges of committing acts of extremism and destruction. Judge Mohammad Al Yazidi handed down the penalty of death by firing squad to Saleh Omar Al Jarou, who was convicted for attempting to blow up public installations. The sentence will be referred to President Ali Abdullah Saleh for ratification. Judge Yazidi also pronounced a 15-year prison term for Sinan Belhareth who, like Jarou, is a member of the Islamic Jihad organisation. Belhareth, in collusion with Jarou and other convicts, last May attempted to blow up public property using rocket-propelled grenades and dynamite, according to the indictment. Three other defendants got five-year terms and two were acquitted.

### \$4 million stolen from U.N. in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — The United Nations said Monday that \$3.9 million had been stolen from the headquarters of its peacekeeping operation in Mogadishu, the "worst case" of theft yet for U.N. forces there. Tom White, chief of technical services for the mission, said a break-in apparently occurred in the pre-dawn hours of Sunday and an investigation was underway. UNOSOM, the U.N. operation in Somalia, did not announce the theft at regular briefings for reporters Sunday afternoon or this morning. Mr. White, questioned by an Associated Press reporter acting on an anonymous tip, said the money was taken from a safe in the heavily guarded finance section at UNOSOM headquarters. "It's the worst case of theft we've had since the operation began" in May, 1993, Mr. White said. The United Nations has been plagued by thefts in Mogadishu, especially since the United States withdrew its 4,000 troops in March. Reporters have noticed much more lax security, particularly at the city's port and airport. Most thefts, however, have been relatively small — food, office equipment and the like. Pakistani peacekeepers were searching all pedestrians and vehicles leaving the U.N. compound Monday. Passengers leaving Mogadishu on U.N. flights also had their baggage searched.

### Turkish troops press assault in Iraq

SIRNAK, Turkey (AP) — At least 57 Kurdish guerrillas have been killed in a six-day offensive by Turkish troops in northern Iraq, a report said Sunday. About 5,000 troops moved across the border Tuesday to attack the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), which stages hit-and-run attacks into Turkey from bases in northern Iraq. Anatolia news agency said the operation, which included fighter-bombers, concentrated on the Sivi and Mezidiyakeri regions Sunday. It said at least 57 rebels had been killed, but did not give casualties for government forces. Iraqi Kurds accept aid from the Turkish government and do not openly back the PKK, which has waged a violent campaign for autonomy in southeastern Turkey since 1984. More than 12,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

### Kuwait kickbacks committee sets a boost

KUWAIT (AP) — A parliamentary subcommittee probing alleged kickbacks on weapons purchases has assumed the power to refer suspects to the prosecutor-general, press reports said. Al Anba daily said the move, allowed under Kuwaiti legislative regulations, came after the defence undersecretary, Faisal Al Dawoud, refused to hand over documents related to the allegations. The newspaper quoted Mr. Dawoud as saying his refusal was "based on directives from the higher command," but did not elaborate. The subcommittee is part of a larger parliamentary commission set up in December 1992 to

investigate events leading up to the August 1990 Iraqi invasion. Deputies want to know why the government failed to anticipate the Iraqi onslaught and how billions of dollars in public money were lost to mismanagement and embezzlement during that period. The newspaper did not provide any details on the kickbacks under investigation. However, committee member Mubarak Al Duwailah of the Islamic fundamentalist bloc has said that a senior ministry official has received \$100 million on weapons deals. The former defence minister, Sheikh Ali Al Sabah, has dismissed the accusations as unsubstantiated. Sheikh Ali became interior minister in last Wednesday's cabinet reshuffle. Deputy Mohammad Shirar, a member of the committee, told Al Anba that if the government fails to cooperate with the investigation, "a collision with it was inevitable."

### Shahal appoints new police chief

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police Minister Moshe Shahal has appointed a new police commander after the country's top cop resigned following allegations that he accepted favours from a hotel chain. Asaf Hefetz, 49, the central district commander, was named as the new police chief after the resignation of Inspector General Rafi Peled. Mr. Hefetz joined the force in 1975 and helped found its anti-terrorist squad. The police shake-up was prompted when the supreme court ordered an investigation of accusations that Mr. Peled accepted personal favours, including deep discounts from a hotel chain. As a result of the ruling, Mr. Peled announced his resignation last Saturday although he maintained he had done nothing wrong. The appointment of Mr. Hefetz led Jerusalem district commander Yehuda Wilk to announce his resignation, citing different methods of operation. Israeli army radio said Mr. Hefetz had sharply criticised Mr. Wilk's decision to bar Jews from praying at the western wall while allowing Muslims to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque when protests erupted in Jerusalem following the Feb. 25 Hebron massacre.

### Iran wants joint exercises with neighbours

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran renewed Sunday its call for joint military exercises with its Gulf Arab neighbours, in a new bid to alleviate tensions that have marred its ties with some of these countries. State-run Tehran Radio quoted Major General Ali Shabbazi, the armed forces' joint chief of staff, as saying that "Iran is ready for joint manoeuvres with neighbouring countries in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman." Earlier this year Iran participated in naval manoeuvres with Pakistan, the first joint war games with a foreign country since the 1979 Islamic revolution. For several years Iran has been trying to woo other Gulf countries into signing a military pact with Tehran, but to no avail. Six of Iran's neighbours are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, an economic and security alliance comprising Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman. Some of these states have often voiced concern over Iran's massive rearmament programme which they fear is designed to build the Persian state into a regional superpower. Saudi Arabia's relations with Tehran have been marred by differences since the rise of the Islamic republic, which at one stage sought to export its brand of Muslim fundamentalism to neighbouring states. More recently, the two have been bickering over oil policies within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries and also over the number of pilgrims Iran will be allowed to send to Saudi Arabia during the pilgrimage season in May. The UAE, meanwhile, is feuding with Iran over three Gulf islands sovereignty over which is claimed by both countries. The radio quoted Gen. Shabbazi as saying that the government was using military facilities to conduct research. Gen. Shabbazi said \$0 billion (US\$2.5 million) had been invested for these projects, without elaborating on them.

### Turkey urges end to arms embargo on Bosnia

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin on Sunday called on the United Nations to end an arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims. "The U.N., which has failed to protect the Bosnian Muslims, should at least allow them to protect themselves against the Serbian aggressors," Mr. Cetin said in an interview on Turkish television. Mr. Cetin said Indonesia, inept U.N. and Western policies had encouraged Bosnian Serb forces to renew attacks on the Bosnian Muslim enclave of Gorazde. He said the United Nations and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) had suffered a severe blow to their credibility because of their inability to restore peace in Bosnia. "The U.N. and NATO should back up their resolve with force, the only thing the Serbs understand," Mr. Cetin said.

## Military court to try Alfi attackers

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian military court will try a group of suspected militants accused of attempting to blow up the interior minister last year, the government newspaper Al Ahram said in its Monday edition.

President Hosni Mubarak on Sunday issued a decree that the men should go before a military court. They face the death sentence if convicted, Al Ahram said.

They are allegedly members of the militant group Jihad, which assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981 and targets public figures in its battle to overthrow the Egyptian government and establish a strict Islamic state.

Al Ahram did not say how many would stand trial, but Interior Minister Hassan Al-Ali told a news conference last week police had arrested 30 members of Jihad in raids over the past two weeks in connection with the attempt to kill him.

General Alfi escaped death in central Cairo on Aug. 18 last year when a bomb exploded just before his motorcade passed. The explosion killed two militants and three civilians.

Al Ahram said the primary suspects were Mohammed Abdul Halim Khalifa and Mohammed Rashad.

Gen. Alfi said police had killed the group's leader, Adel Awad Siyam. Officials said Siyam was killed in the southwestern Cairo suburb of Moneeb on April 4.

Khalifa, Siyam's brother-in-law, was in the same car when Siyam was killed.

The men will also be charged with the murder in February of a prosecution witness in a case against militants who tried to blow up Prime Minister Atef Sedki in November, Al Ahram said.

They will face charges of arms possession and setting off a bomb in July last year near a Cairo youth club where police officers were doing physical training, the paper added.

The bomb caused minor damage but no casualties.

Gen. Alfi said last week that other members of Siyam's group were still at large.

The controversial military courts set up by Mr. Mubarak to bypass normal judicial practice and ensure harsh punishment for militants have sent



Hassan Al-Ali (right) attends a recent official event in Cairo

enced 51 men to die since December 1992.

Thirty-one militants have been executed since June 1993 for attacking public figures and foreign tourists and conspiring to overthrow the government.

More than 360 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt over the past two years.

Militants attacked a train in southern Egypt for the first time in more than a month on Saturday night.

They opened fire on a sleeper travelling from Aswan to Cairo but no one was injured, security sources said. Some windows were broken, a witness said.

The militant group Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah claimed responsibility and said the attack was part of a campaign against human rights violations in Egyptian prisons.

Unless the authorities released hundreds of Gamaa members arrested over the past week, the group would start operations in areas which have so far been quiet, it said in a statement faxed to an international news agency.

The attack took place near the town of Abu Tig, on the Nile 340 kilometres south of Cairo, at about midnight.

Eight trains have been attacked in roughly the same area this year but the last one was on March 8. Police said that in a gun battle on March 21 they killed six members of the group responsible for the attacks.

The Gamaa, which is espe-

cially strong in Abu Tig and the rest of Assiut province, has claimed responsibility for all the previous attacks.

In its statement the group said: "The operation is the fifth in the armed campaign to put an end to the most horrible violations of human rights seen in Egyptian prisons for years."

"The hysterical behaviour of the Interior Ministry after the assassination of the state security official in charge of extremism — arresting at random hundreds of Gamaa members in quiet areas — will only escalate matters and add to the tension," it added.

The state security officer was police Major-General Raouf Khayrat, killed in an ambush by the Gamaa in Cairo on April 9.

"Failing to release these innocents immediately can mean only two things — more armed areas will be drawn into the cauldron of the current conflict... (and) more security, tourist and investment targets will be added," it said.

The Gamaa has been trying to hurt the government by damaging Egypt's lucrative tourist industry and by planting bombs at banks to scare off customers.

It says its ultimate objective is to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Security sources say the police have arrested hundreds of people in Cairo over the past three days but only a minority were suspected members of militant groups.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:30	Envoys Special
17:30	News in French
19:15	Grand Galop
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	Medical Drugs
20:00	News in Arabic
20:35	Beyond 2000
21:10	Moon Over Miami
22:00	News in English
22:20	The Cape Rebel
23:10	The Second Half
PRAYER TIMES	
04:36	Fajr
06:29	Dhuhr (Summer)
12:35	Dhuhr
16:12	'Asr
19:19	Maghreb
20:32	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swaidah, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	
623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 625265	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 624932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
It will be hot, dry, and dusty with winds becoming southerly active. In Aqaba, windy weather conditions will prevail, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	19/30
Aqaba	19/36
Deserts	12/32
Jordan Valley	14/34
Yesterday's high temperatures: Am-	

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Makhles Halasa	819220
Dr. Youssef Samour	615648
Dr. Jamil Jaber	847351
Dr. Jamil Maraga	776149
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asaan pharmacy	677035
Nairoch pharmacy	623672
Al Saleem pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisat pharmacy	637660
Nairoch pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
AMMAN:	
Dr. Makhles Halasa	819220
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Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisat pharmacy	637660
Nairoch pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632

#### REPAIRS

Abdali Telephone Repairs	641101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Information	637111
Rescue	630041
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	63021
Hotel Complaints	626800
Police Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	771013
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230





The Jubilee Circle as it was being converted into an intersection last February (Photo by Rana Hussein)

## Amman municipality to finish street mapping, renaming

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Municipality is in the process of finishing the "Street Map and Renaming Project" to identify all streets and important sites in the capital, according to Marwan Elayan, director of the Naming and Numbering Department at the municipality.

Mr. Elayan told the Jordan Times that the municipality's first step is to name and number every street and house in Amman, so that people will start recognising their street names and use them in their addresses.

The municipality, he said, has issued 11 area maps, with two more awaiting printing, as part of a plan that will cover the Amman area and its suburbs.

The projects include changing some street names, Mr. Elayan said, adding that this measure raised some complaints because in the process, names of some of the streets have been given to other streets, which created confusion.

Mr. Elayan said residents have no reason to worry about the change because the municipality will be willing to help them with the new names and locating the old addresses.

"The municipality tries to avoid renaming streets as much as possible, but sometimes due to certain conditions, it is forced to do it," Mr. Elayan said.

In addition, he said that when a new name is given to an already named street, the municipality takes the existing name and applies it to another street.

According to Mr. Elayan, the municipality is attempting to honour renowned Arab and Jordanian figures by naming some of the streets in the city after them.

Mr. Elayan said the municipality started the project at the end of 1992. There are 7,000 streets in the capital, he said, adding that the municipality contacted the Telecommunications Department, the Civil Defence, police stations, and all concerned authorities to inform them of the new procedures of using street names.

According to Mr. Elayan, the areas covered include the

region of Amman which is divided into 20 districts. The maps of 13 districts are already finished and printed.

The areas include downtown, Basman, Marka, Nasser, Yarmouk, Ra's Al Ein, Bader, Zahran, Abdali, Tarek and Jubeiha, Wadi Sir and Ta'a Al Ali, Um Al Samak and Khalda.

The municipality, in cooperation with the Geographic Centre in Amman, are in the process of publishing a booklet called "Amman Comprehensive Guide," Mr. Elayan said.

The booklet is expected to be completed in the next few months, and the municipality will publish a similar booklet in English to help foreigners residing or visiting the Kingdom to benefit from it.

"This step by the municipality is also a contribution to encouraging tourism in the Kingdom and helping people find their way about," said Mr. Elayan.

He added that the Naming and Numbering Department is expected to finish the street naming and the maps by the end of 1995.

## Nursing development unit opens in Salt

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Health Abdul Rahim Malhas and Italian Ambassador to Jordan Romualdo Bettini opened the "Nursing Development Unit" in King Hussein Hospital in Salt.

The new unit is part of the Clinical Instructor Programme that represents a joint effort by the Ministry of Health and the Italian Cooperation for Development to improve the quality of nursing care in Jordan.

The Clinical Instructor Programme initiated in 1987 has two main components:

— A clinical instructor course that prepares nurses to be clinical instructors responsible for organising the in-service training activities for nurses in the hospital through on-the-job training, seminars and workshops.

— Setting up a network of Nursing Development Units (one in each of the main ministry hospitals in the country) that provides educational resources for in-service training as well as planning, implementing and evaluating continuing education activities tailored to meet the needs of nurses and patients.

The new unit of the Salt hospital has been provided with a television and video cassette recorder — nursing books, training doll, educational films, photocopy machine, typewriter, overhead projector, multi-purposes tables as well as a yearly supply of stationary for production of learning materials based on the educational activities planned within the six month plan developed by the clinical instructor responsible for the unit.

attended by Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Afridi and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi.

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Income Tax Department Mansour Haddadin Monday received a delegation representing the Malaysian Customs Department currently on a visit to Jordan for talks with officials to sign an agreement on Jordanian-Malaysian relations in customs-related issues. Mr. Haddadin briefed the delegation on the Jordanian Income Tax Law. The delegation started its four-day talks at the Income Tax Department Sunday.

MADABA (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has established five vocational workshops at Hisban, Faisaliya, Lub, Diban, Maen and Al Jabel schools in Madaba district, Madaba Education Department Director Abdullah Al Luwama said Monday. Mr. Luwama said the ministry is currently constructing buildings for three model schools in Madaba as part of its educational development plans. These schools, which will include 42 classrooms, will be built at a cost of JD3.5 million.

AMMAN (Petra) — The Fourth Jordan Fair on Construction Materials will be opened at Amman International Expo in Marj Al Hamam Thursday. About 60 firms from Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Tunisia, Germany, Italy and Austria will take part in the fair, organised by the Jordan Contractors and Construction Firms Association. The fair which will be opened by Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Razzaq Ensour will display modern central heating equipment, construction systems, water purification equipment and machinery used in construction works.

## 13th ship denied entry to Aqaba this year

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A vessel carrying Canadian newsprint and unprocessed sanitary paper for the Jordanian market Monday became the 13th ship denied entry to Aqaba this year by the U.S.-led naval force patrolling the Red Sea, shipping officials said.

The interception comes amid stepped-up contacts by Jordan to put an end to the damaging inspection of all Aqaba-bound vessels as part of enforcing the 45-month-old international sanctions against Iraq.

Jordan, which is staying away from formal participation in the U.S.-backed Arab-Israeli peace negotiations until the blockade of Aqaba is lifted, is exerting efforts with France, Britain and other countries in an effort to prevent further economic losses caused by the costly delays resulting from the Red Sea inspections.

It is estimated that Jordan lost \$1.2 billion in extra charges levied by shipowners on freight to Aqaba because of the uncertainties over the fate of Jordan-bound cargo at the mercy of the inspectors backed by the U.S. navy.

Beyond the economic losses, Jordan has said, that the inspections and delays are deliberate harassment aimed at pressuring the Kingdom to make sweeping logistical concessions to Israel in the peace talks.

His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed this week Jordan's stand that the Kingdom's participation in the peace process was contingent on an end to the siege of Aqaba. He said that while Jordan remained committed to a negotiated peace in the Middle East, the Kingdom refused to be targeted for pressure and mistrust and "humiliated as a people" and still be expected to play a positive role in the peace process.

The King also said there were "positive" signs that the problem was being addressed. Diplomats here believe that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is reportedly expected in the Middle East in the last week of April, might bring with him an American answer to a proposal to replace the sea-based inspections with on-shore checks at Aqaba by a neutral, international agency such as Lloyds Register of London.

Reporting on the latest interception, shipping officials said Monday that the Ikan Selayang, which is carrying 4,000 tonnes of paper cargo for Jordan, was intercepted Sunday evening by the naval force patrolling the Red Sea.

The vessel was boarded and inspected after an overnight wait at the Tiran Straits at the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba and the inspectors ruled that they did not have accessibility to inspect not only the Jordan-bound cargo but also others stowed in the ship's holds, the officials said.

The Ikan Selayang was waiting at the straits as of Monday evening while the ship's agents and other concerned parties were in touch with the Bahrain headquarters of the U.S. Central Command, which is directly in charge of inspecting all Aqaba-bound vessels, they said.

If the efforts did not succeed to have the ship proceed to Aqaba, then it would head for Dubai, where the Jordan-bound cargo would be unloaded, they said. This would mean another ship picking up the cargo from Dubai and ferrying it to Aqaba, leading to a full sea-freight to be paid by the importers.

In turn, the importers will reflect their extra cost on the actual market prices of the product, and the consumer will end up paying the price for the inspection, the shipping officials noted.

The Ikan Selayang was the 13th ship to be blocked by the U.S.-led inspectors this year, compared with a total of 20 during 1993. More than 1,700 ships were closely inspected among 20,000 hailed over the radio and over 8,500 actually boarded, but until now no vessel was found to be carrying any "contraband" cargo headed for Aqaba in violation of the sanctions against Iraq.

A ship carrying bagged detergents for Jordan was turned away on April 8 by the inspectors. The vessel had to proceed to another Red Sea port to rearrange cargo for inspection. It was allowed to proceed, and it docked at Aqaba on Sunday, a 10-day delay resulting in tens of thousands of dollars in losses.

"The situation is getting out of hand," said Sufian Muhaisen, manager of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association. "Don't think the country can take it anymore. The losses are mounting and importers are turning

away from using Aqaba as much as possible in order to avoid the high freight costs."

Shipowners apply extra charges of \$1,000 per 40-ft. container and \$500 per 20-ft. container and \$15 to \$20 per tonne of loose cargo bound for Aqaba to offset their losses resulting from the delays and diversions to other ports. The cost of transshipment has to be borne by the importer if the ship was forced to offload Jordan-bound cargo at other ports.

Mr. Muhaisen said: "We hope Secretary Christopher would bring with him a solution to the problem. Otherwise, the situation is going to be worse."

Following King Hussein's March 28 notice to the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council that Jordan was suspending participation in the peace process, the various U.S. departments involved in policy-making and enforcement were to have met on the proposal to move the inspections to the port of Aqaba and to authorise Lloyds Register to conduct the inspections.

No details have emerged on how Washington was responding to the proposal.

## RSS to prepare plan for Ruseifa development

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has undertaken a contract to prepare a master plan for the development of nearly 15,000 dunams of land in Ruseifa where the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) first started mining the mineral in the 1930s.

Seifuddin Maaz, director of the RSS's Building Research Centre, told the Jordan Times Monday that his department is involved in preparing the plan which entails environmental, and geological studies and a full survey of the state-owned land that had been granted to the JPMC as a concession for phosphate mining.

A contract signed between the JPMC and the RSS in the past week provides for conducting the studies, preparing the master plan and giving advice on how the land can best be developed for residential, sports, municipal services and other purposes.

"Once the task has been completed in five months, the whole plan would be turned over to the JPMC and the concerned municipal authorities," said Dr. Maaz.

"The Building Research Centre is cooperating with the Environment Research Centre and the Industrial Studies Department at the RSS in implementing the task," added Dr. Maaz.

According to Jamil Werikat, JPMC production director, mining of phosphate at the site near Ruseifa, north east of Amman, has stopped since 1985, but the JPMC feels that it should contribute to the socio-economic development of the area where the company had benefited from the phosphate for nearly 50 years.

Mr. Werikat, an engineer, told the Jordan Times that the JPMC is paying the RSS JD120,000 to prepare the master plan and maps for the development project and will later help the concerned municipal authorities to carry out the various aspects of the project.

"We also intend to set up a museum at the site that would house items related to the development of the phosphate mining industry in the Kingdom," added Mr. Werikat.

"Local residents have been setting up homes haphazardly in the same area and many have built homes without licences on this state-owned land," Mr. Werikat added.

"In the master plan we are taking into account environmental as well as social and economic considerations in order to bring back life to the area for the benefit of the Ruseifa residents," said the JPMC official.

He said a committee chaired by the Zarqa governor and grouping representatives of the JPMC, the RSS and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) as well as the Ruseifa mayor has been formed to follow up the implementation of the plan.

## Industrialists, experts to discuss polymer science in plastics production

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — More than 35 Jordanian industrialists have been invited to attend a session Tuesday dedicated to discussing polymer science and its applications in the plastics industry, according to Najat Al Shaikh from the University of Jordan.

Dr. Shaikh told the Jordan Times Monday that the session which is part of the Third Conference on Physics of Condensed Matter that was opened at the University of Jordan Monday, was considered paramount to Jordanian industries, especially those that are related to the plastics industry.

Dr. Shaikh, who is the conference rapporteur, said the session Tuesday will be held at the Applied Sciences University, the conference's co-organisers.

The first day of the three-day event which was opened by Mohammad Maqousi, the



University of Jordan Vice President for Academic Affairs Monday addresses the opening session of Third Conference on Physics of Condensed Matter at the university

University of Jordan's vice-president for academic affairs, was attended by 30 participants from non-Jordanian universities and research centres and 50 Jordanian physicists.

The researchers Monday discussed working papers dealing with conduction, solar cells and theoretical and applied physics. The industrialists session Tuesday is to focus on topics related to the

industry and plastic materials, said Dr. Shaikh.

In his opening speech, Dr. Maqousi described the conference as an important forum contributing to promoting inter-action between the industrial sector and the research centres.

Delegates attending the sessions, said Dr. Shaikh, came from Egypt, Iraq, Syria, the U.S. and Turkey in addition to Jordan.

## Minister calls for proper handling, use of fertilisers

AMMAN (Petra) — Industry and Trade Minister Rima Khalaf Monday called for appropriate handling and use of chemical fertilisers to reduce their damaging effects on water and the environment in general.

Opening a four-day meeting to discuss chemical fertilisers and their use in the Arab World, the minister said that chemical fertilisers are among the main elements required at present to increase agricultural production and ensure food security.

Chemical fertilisers have been increasingly used in Jordan and the rest of the Arab countries because they are as important to agriculture on pesticides, tractors and farm equipment, said Dr. Khalaf. But, she said, the use of chemicals has resulted in many negative consequences because

they affect soil and under ground water sources as well as humans.

Sameh Madani, director general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) and head of a coordination committee for the fertiliser industry in Jordan, told the meeting that the industry has been facing adverse effects from economic, environmental and political changes around the world.

He said, in many countries regulations to safeguard the environment have had their negative impact on trading and marketing of chemical fertilisers, which sometimes are harmful to man, animal and their environments.

In terms of trade, the collapse of the Soviet Union resulted in the flooding of world markets with cheap fertilisers made in countries of the former eastern European bloc which are cash-strapped and in desperate for hard currency, said Mr. Madani.

Arab Potash Company (APC) Director Suleiman Hawari told the meeting that chemical fertilisers are marketed more in countries seeking to expand agricultural production to meet the growing demand for food.

The meeting, which is organised in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertiliser Producers, is attended by delegates from Arab states.

Chemical fertilisers technology, phosphatic fertilisers, ammonium phosphate, fertiliser production and training of personnel, as well as ensuring environmental safety are among the main topics on the agenda.

## Japanese T.V. to produce documentary on life in Jordan

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) has decided to produce a 40-minute documentary on the life of Jordanian people which will be aired nationwide in Japan on a prime-time television series in June.

The goal of the film will be to give Japanese viewers a picture of the everyday life of Jordanians in both the cities as well as the rural and bedouin areas, said Hiroshi Koriike, cultural attaché at the Japanese embassy in Amman.

"Jordan is really not known among the Japanese people," Mr. Koriike told the Jordan Times. He explained

by saying that although people in Japan have had much previous exposure to what is happening in Jordan and the surrounding region politically through the news media, "they do not have any ideas as to what the normal, everyday life of the country's people is like."

Mr. Koriike added that Jordan is of particular interest because of the balance in its population between those who lead a thoroughly modernised lifestyle in Jordan's cities and those who maintain a strictly traditional lifestyle in rural areas and the deserts.

"In other parts of the Arab World, it is not always so easy to find both of these two ways of life side by side," said Mr. Koriike.

The prime-time TV series which will be broadcasting the documentary is called "Travelling All Around the World," and is broadcast nationally in Japan every Wednesday at 8:00 p.m.

The NHK's four-person crew which will film the documentary has not yet set its exact schedule, said Mr. Koriike. It will arrive in Jordan on April 23 and travel to Aqaba and Wadi Rum to take footage there, and may then conduct additional filming in Karak and Amman.

The crew will then return to Japan sometime in mid-May, and if the film's editing goes according to schedule, the documentary will be aired in Japan at the beginning of June, he said.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Majali urges planning in tourism sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Monday stressed the need to set up a higher organisational council whose tasks will include developing the Aqaba and Petra regions. At the weekly meeting of the department directors of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Dr. Majali requested that speedy measures be taken to develop tourist attractions in Jordan, pointing that determination and planning are the way to distinguished achievements. He underlined the importance of holding periodic meetings between officials and department heads to discuss recent developments and resolve various problems and activate the tourism activities sector in the Kingdom. Tourism and Antiquities Minister Mohammad Adwan reviewed at the meeting plans to develop tourist attractions in Petra, the Dead Sea and Aqaba.

#### House to hold extraordinary session Wednesday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament holds its first meeting of the first extraordinary session Wednesday under the chairmanship of Speaker Taher Masi and in the presence of the Cabinet members. The meeting will be opened by reading the Royal Decree which ordered the convening of the session. Afterwards, the House will refer to its specialised committees an amendment to the 1994 Public Security Law, an amendment to the 1994 Jordanian Universities Law, a draft law on the Applied Sciences University and on higher education in Jordan. The House is expected also to resume its debate on decisions by its Financial Committee on the 1994 sales tax draft law.

#### Jordan, Pakistan discuss energy

AMMAN (Petra) — Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Waleed Asfour Monday received Pakistani Minister of Industry Mohammad Asghar and discussed with him means of enhancing Jordanian-Pakistani cooperation in energy-related fields. The meeting was

attended by Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Tariq Afridi and Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources Secretary General Abdul Wahab Al Zu'bi.

#### Malaysia, Jordan discuss customs

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Income Tax Department Mansour Haddadin Monday received a delegation representing the Malaysian Customs Department currently on a visit to Jordan for talks with officials to sign an agreement on Jordanian-Malaysian relations in customs-related issues. Mr. Haddadin briefed the delegation on the Jordanian Income Tax Law. The delegation started its four-day talks at the Income Tax Department Sunday.

#### Madaba vocational workshops set up

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#### Construction materials fair to open

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### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture with slides entitled "Renaissance Europe: Uncovering the Essentials of Painting" by Mrs. Nelly Lama at Ghoethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Arab Borders, Why and Where?" by Dr. Khalid Nwaleh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:00 p.m.

#### TVS VARIETY PROGRAMME

- ★ Programme in French entitled "Les Grands Jours Du Siecle" at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition by artist Mustafa Al Hallaj at Baladun Art Gallery, Gardens St. (Tel. 687596).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Ali Mizarat at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Latifa Yousef at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by artists Alia Ammoura, Dorothy Mango, Hind F. Ser, Janine Saad, Lucy Mario, Teta Wegelin at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- ★ Exhibition of calligraphy at Orfall Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Paintings exhibition by Jordanian and Lebanese artists Jamal Khamis and Jehad Abu Suleiman at Alia Art Gallery (9:30 - 13:30, 15:00-18:00) (Tel. 639303).
- ★ Graphics exhibition by artist Burhan Saleh Mohammad at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).
- ★ Engraving exhibition by artist Jean-Pierre Pincemin at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at the Italian Language Centre (9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 669348).
- ★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

#### NEWS ROUND-UP

- ★ ABC Weekly News Highlights and the MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.



By Rami G. Khouri

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editor-in-Chief: GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices: Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

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## Vision for Jerusalem

THERE CAN be no peace without the restoration of Arab rights in Jerusalem, Muslim and Christian. This was the essence of His Majesty King Hussein's message to the world yesterday at the ceremony held to celebrate the completion of renovation work at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in the Holy City. Jordan and the Hashemite leadership have historic as well as future links to Jerusalem. In the early days of Islam, the early Muslim rulers entered the city in peace and offered peace to its people. And in modern times the Hashemites had associated themselves with the well-being of the city and its inhabitants. As for the future, Jordan realises that unless Arab, Muslim and Christian rights in the Holy City are restored to their rightful owners, a lasting peace will be hard to attain. Muslims will not accept to visit a city they consider their third sacred place while it is under Jewish control, no matter what assurances and guarantees Israel is willing to offer to ensure access and freedom of worship. The sensitivity by which the adherents of any of the three monotheistic religions view each other will not be tempered down if one had total control of the city. On the contrary, that sensitivity and resentment will only grow. And that does not bode well for the future of the city named "the City of Peace."

The history of the city for millennia had been characterised by strife. Each party that considered it sacred wanted to have it for its own.

If the children of Abraham, Christians, Jews and Muslims, want to put an end to those centuries of bloodshed they have to settle for sharing the city. It need not be the capital of only one of them. It can be the eternal capital of the whole world from whence comes the eternal light of peace.

Jordan has no political ambitions in Palestine or elsewhere in the world. The only ambition it has is to live peacefully among peace-loving and amicable neighbours. It wants peace that will hold, endure and last; peace that would be acceptable to this and to future generations. And Jordan realises very well that that peace will not come unless the Arab, Muslim and Christian claims are addressed and their rights restored. That is why peace must come to Jerusalem and to all the hearts that yearn for the city first. Otherwise the wound will not heal, will fester and one day explode, shattering any deal that does not address this very sensitive issue.

To bring peace to Jerusalem is not a difficult task. The hearts of good men are full of vision. Will this vision light the hearts of the occupiers? We certainly pray so.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WITH THE completion of work on the refurbishing of the Dome of the Rock, the Hashemites have added one more luminous chapter in their long history of services to Islam and the Arab Nation, said Al Rai daily Monday. Commenting on celebrations marking the completion of the work on the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, the paper said that His Majesty King Hussein has never stopped exerting efforts for protecting Jerusalem and its holy shrines and defending Arab and Islamic rights. Over the past decades, King Hussein has sought to abort all conspiracies against the Muslim as well as the Christian rights in the Holy City, the paper said. The restoration of holy shrines, it said, is just one more part of this relentless effort in the face of world Zionism's attempts to Judaize Arab and Islamic land. With the celebration today (yesterday), said the paper, the Hashemites have added one more achievement that would serve the Islamic World and protect its holy places.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Monday urged the Arab countries involved in the peace process with Israel to open their eyes to the fact that the peace sought by the Jewish state is a different one from that the Arabs are earnestly seeking. Walid Abu Baker said that Israel is acting in a manner to steer the peace process towards a direction that would ensure protection of its own interests and secure protection for the Israeli people. To achieve this end, the Israeli government has blamed Jordan for allegedly harbouring Hamas, blamed Syria for hosting Palestinians opposed to the peace process and continued its attacks on southern Lebanon to end the resistance on that front, said the writer. What is more the Israeli government is demanding that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) provide protection to the Jewish settlers and settlements during the autonomy rule, though it realises that the resistance inside the occupied Arab lands was bound to continue, according to the writer. He said that Israel has ensured some security through its external wars, but it is now unable to control the internal front and is trying, to shift the blame on others.

## The View from Fourth Circle

# The media, the past and the challenge

THE STATE of the news media in Jordan, especially the government-run official media, is one of the most important but least discussed aspects of our contemporary political culture. The media is also at a potential turning point for the better or the worse, and therefore it warrants public assessment at a more comprehensive level than we have witnessed recently in the press.

The recent discussions about the new Arabic language television show "60 Minutes" and the airing of Arabic language serials and international football games on Channel 12 only touch the tip of the iceberg of our official media. Deeper down, there is a very powerful world that remains largely outside the realm of public debate, and mostly in the hands of (usually life-long) government bureaucrats who are not directly subjected to public accountability.

Some very important questions about the ownership, management and content of the government-owned media should be raised and answered these days, along with wider questions about the most appropriate interaction between the government, the privately owned press and the people's right to know. It is sad to see how after five years of political liberalisation in Jordan, the three primary instruments of democratisation — Parliament, the political parties, and the press — should all suffer obvious credibility gaps in the eyes of the public.

I understand why Parliament and the parties should be slow to develop deep-rooted credibility and authentic power; both are foreign imports that are new to our political and social culture. The media is different, though, and should be less hindered by the pervasive and irritating legacy of the made-in-Europe imported political institutions that have awkwardly defined most of the Arab World since the 1920s. There should not be any major reason why our official and private media cannot achieve higher standards of excellence, impartiality and credibility.

I have been associated with the Jordanian media for nearly 20 years, and therefore I raise the issue of the quality of our media as one whose personal and professional life is closely tied to it. Despite the restrictions on press freedom that we have always had to live with — and that we accept with realism and pragmatism — I have always been proud of my work as a journalist in Jordan, mainly through the Jordan Times. I was privileged to be associated with Jordan Television for two and a half years (1990-1992), during a moment of slow but steady and enlightened liberalisation that saw the television emerge as a constructive element in Jordan's national development.

In the last several years, however, many people sense that the Jordanian media has regressed, perhaps due to the fears and uncertainties that are associated with a region in the midst of historic change. The spirit of honesty and constructive pluralism that defined the media from the summer of 1989 seems to have given way to more traditional Middle Eastern patriarchal modes of governance, wherein the state-owned media's role is primarily one of orientation and guidance according to the government's policies, rather than of providing a forum for an exchange of ideas.

The official media's performance on the question of the sales tax, for example, has been less than balanced, with a preponderance of views on television and radio for the tax and little airing of voices against the tax. (If you're wondering where I stand on the sales tax issue, I am all for it.) The television and radio also performed inadequately during the parliamentary elections last year, when we missed the opportunity to present the Arab World with an enlightened model of the state media as an instrument of dissemination of the rich diversity of our political sentiments and ideologies. Existing talk shows largely refrain from honestly and passionately addressing the big issues facing the Arab World — Islamist politics, the fate of pan-Arab identity, the questions of water, food and debt, political relations among Arab states, ties with large neighbours such as Iran and Turkey, the progress or regression of pluralism and democratisation and the future of the Arab region in the wake of the end of the cold war and the imminent resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Some people say these issues are too sensitive to discuss on the state media; I say that they are too important for the state media to ignore, because ignoring them means leaving our fate to be determined by a combination of rumour and fatalism before the forces that are reshaping our region.

**"In the last several years, however, many people sense that the Jordanian media has regressed, perhaps due to the fears and uncertainties that are associated with a region in the midst of historic change."**

The first question we should ask is whether or not we still need a ministry of information. Frankly, I am embarrassed by the fact that we still have such a relic from the early days of Arab intellectual totalitarianism that was born in the crucible of Nasser's Egypt. The present Minister of Information is probably the best one we've ever had, because he's too busy doing other, more important things to give much time or attention to running the ministry. He deserves an award for political enlightenment.

The very concept of a ministry of information is politically and intellectually outdated. It smacks of a combination of arrogance and mind control on the part of the government that are totally incompatible with the concepts of democratisation, freedom and pluralism that we utter every other minute these days. Egypt hardened the world with the ministry of information concept in the 1950s, at a moment when it was embracing the military-authoritarian style of governance that would define our region for most of the second half of this century. The ministry of information concept was designed to control the flow of news to the public, to offer only a singular, governmental perspective on the news of the day and to engage in rhetorical battles with other states, whether Israel, Arab states, or western powers. This is the ugly intellectual and political legacy that we copied blindly half a century ago, and that lingers anachronistically in our midst today.

I understand and accept that we need some context for the media to work in, whether legal, moral or political. I appreciate that the media sometimes should go along with government desires on very sensitive issues, such as, for example, security-related issues or relations with foreign donors in times of crisis. The government is also mandated to uphold the society's sense of decency and moral decorum, so that, for example, censorship of sexually or morally offensive films and publications is an acceptable task for government.

But this is about as far as I think we can take the matter of government control or guidance of the media.

The broad question that must be addressed is the following: Are the state-owned television, radio and news agency primarily mouthpieces for the government, or are they the media of the Jordanian people in all their intellectual, social and ideological diversity? The management structure of the state-owned media is badly in need of revision that would separate the operation of the media from the direct control of the government — not because the government is necessarily wrong or bad, but because the policy orientation of the government does not necessarily reflect the full diversity of views of the Jordanian people and society. A wider public debate would result in government policies that are more clear, and that therefore have more public support.

Perhaps it is time to consider the establishment of a neutral press council or other such body that would have regulating authority over the operations of the state-owned media. We could easily eliminate the ministry of information, give the press council overall authority over the state-owned media, and establish a press office in the Prime Ministry that would undertake those limited functions that are deemed appropriate, such as censoring offensive foreign material or providing guidance to the press on sensitive issues related to security, foreign policy and fiscal matters.

The government is now pondering the question of appointing a new director-general for the Jordan Television and Radio Corporation. The previous director-general, Radi Alkhas, effectively steered the corporation through a delicate period of transition that provided some refreshing examples of illuminating public debate and discussion of important policy issues. He is to be commended for doing a difficult job rather well. His replacement is perhaps the single most important appointment that the Jordanian government will make this year, given the extraordinary power and influence of the television and radio in our country.

This appointment is not only about whether we run comedies, drama series or football games on television. It is about the much more decisive issue of whether we continue to use the state-owned media to propel Jordan into a modern era of enlightened democracy and the pluralistic ideological debate that it comprises, or regress meekly into the more familiar but dangerous world of mass mind control and one-track policy orientation.

I believe the media stands before a historic turning point this year because for the first time in recent memory many people have alternatives to the state-owned television and radio, in the form of international satellite television channels. The proliferation of home satellite dishes allows Jordanians to learn about the world from perspectives other than the government's. This is an important challenge that we have to face up to with a combination of professionalism and honesty that has not been forced upon us before.

If the state-owned media maintains its traditional legacy of primarily offering a government-inspired version of the news events of our region and world, it will soon find itself addressing a smaller and smaller audience, and with less and less credibility. This is not only detrimental to the democratisation process that we value; it would also run counter to the modern legacy of enlightened human development in Jordan based firmly on education, and the promise of honest, constructive debate on public policy issues that eliminate from the consequences of an educated citizenry.

## WASHINGTON WATCH

LAST WEEK Jesse Jackson and I went to Jerusalem to address an international conference sponsored by Hebron University. Reverend Jackson was to be the banquet speaker and I was to deliver the luncheon address at the event in commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Entitled "Promoting Peace through Understanding", the conference sought to bring together 200 Palestinian leaders from throughout the West Bank and Gaza to both evaluate the history of their struggle and to plan for their future in light of the Sept. 13th signing of the Declaration of Principles.

As a result of actions by the Israeli authorities, however, we were not able to proceed as planned. Instead of focusing on the future, we were forced to deal directly with the brutal present of an apparently unyielding occupation. But even in this there were important lessons to be learned that can provide direction to the continuing movement towards a just and lasting peace.

The goal of the conference was clear: an academic conference sponsored by a university and supported by the PLO to establish a Palestinian dialogue for peace. Of course, we assumed the Israelis would not only allow, but might even encourage and protect such an event. But when the Israeli right wing attacked the event and accused Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of surrendering Jerusalem to the PLO (because the conference was to take place in Jerusalem), the Israeli government responded by ordering the conference closed only one day prior to its announced opening.

Permits for travel were denied to Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza who planned to attend the conference, making it impossible for them to come to Jerusalem. The management of the hotel that was to be the site of the conference was forced to sign an agreement forbidding the event to take place on its premises under threat of personal arrest and closure of the establishment.

Citing the authority of the British Emergency Regulation of 1945, the Military Governor ordered the hotel "to shut down each and every hall or conference room that serves or could serve for the purpose of the meeting as well as any building or courtyard in the area of the hotel where such a gathering could be held." And on the morning of the opening of the conference, Israeli military personnel set up roadblocks on the roads around the hotel, closing it off to all traffic.

# What we learned in Jerusalem



**"I grew up on the west bank of America," Rev. Jesse Jackson**

to any restrictions on free speech, it seemed important to grasp the victory that would allow the conference organisers to return to the original venue of the conference, at least for its closing banquet.

The Israelis remained obstinate in refusing any permits to allow Palestinians from outside Jerusalem to attend to the banquet. Undeterred, the conference organisers worked through the day, mobilising those who could come to actually go to the hotel. By that evening a sizeable number of Palestinian leaders from the city were at the hotel for the function.

Yet one hour before the banquet was to begin, the Israeli military once again set up their roadblocks around the hotel, and several Shin Bet officers came into the hotel with new orders. They told me that the new orders forbade anyone but Rev. Jackson from speaking at the banquet. Further, the officers stated that they were to be present inside the banquet hall to insure that their orders were followed.

I argued that this order violated our agreement with Mr. Peres. The officers replied that their new order came from Prime Minister Rabin's office, and that they were only following orders. I reminded them that that argument had been used by others in the past with tragic consequences. Their presence at the banquet, I told them, would not secure peace, it would only produce anger. I urged them to leave and not return. They did leave, and

changes can occur, Rev. Jackson countered with his strong belief that real change was in fact occurring. He said: "Thirty years ago, it was said that you were not a people, that you deserved no land, no power to share, no security, no self-determination, no homeland. After 30 years, fundamental shifts have occurred, codified in the Declaration of Principles. A shift from a no-talk policy to a let-us-talk policy. From disregard to mutual recognition.... The peace and freedom tree has been planted. It must be allowed to sprout and grow. A new vision must emerge... as you shift from the defence of survival of war to the defence of development of hope. For most who have been immersed in the struggle for all of our lives, this is a sea change in preparation — from war preparation to peace preparation. We must learn a new, different, and necessary lesson — to build and expand on the space that exists, to learn to move from mutual recognition to self-determination in actuality, on the ground."

"Peace is not a gift. It is a struggle. In many ways it is more difficult struggle than war. It must be built day by day and brick by brick. If it is not nurtured, its possibilities can only be a vision which will wither and die."

Surely for all of the possibility, it is the reality that Israeli troops are leaving Gaza and Jericho as we speak, the reality that Palestinian leaders are returning, that prisoners — some but far too few — are being released, that authority is being transferred on the ground. Those are the first fruits of peace. But the taste must become a meal soon, or peace can be starved from lack of sustenance.

The groundwork has been laid, the agreement has been signed. Let us now lay the cornerstone and begin to build the new building.

With the new possibility, it is vital to undertake new responsibilities building real institutions on the ground, grasping the opportunity offered by formal recognition to gain new allies abroad and new assistance for development.

In this process, a new strategy must be considered for the new possibility. Mass, aggressive, disciplined non-violent action, to complete the unfinished task... This discipline of creative non-violence has power.... It touches the conscience of the people and the soul of the nation. It changes the rules of warfare... The cynics and saboteurs of peace must not be allowed to alter the momentum nor divert the course."

By Dr. James J. Zogby

Following Rev. Jackson's stirring address, the conference organisers from Hebron University and others spoke. I reminded the audience that we had succeeded in convening the conference despite the military and the Shin Bet. We had marched through military roadblocks and defied the authority that sought to silence us. In reality, our recent behaviour had shown that non-violence could effectively challenge violence and oppression.

And despite, or maybe because of, Israeli efforts to block our conference, it succeeded in getting world-wide press attention — probably more coverage than it would have received if the Israeli military had left the event alone.

In many ways, we have all learned that Sept. 13 was not an end point but a beginning. So, too, when an agreement is finally signed to implement the Declaration of Principles it will be merely another beginning in the continuing struggle for full Palestinian rights.

At every stage in the process there will be critics and saboteurs who will object and criticise — and who will lack the vision to build, to challenge and to make changes. What is required is a new strategy, one that energises Palestinians.

In confronting a military force, the most effective weapon is the moral force of disciplined, non-violent political organising. It can be used to effectively challenge the occupation of Jerusalem, the settlements, and to secure Palestinian rights in all their forms.

In a real sense, then, our conference was a success. We accomplished most of what we set out to accomplish. The world saw clearly that the occupation and closure of East Jerusalem continues, and we collectively learned what we set out to learn: How to adapt to the new period, and to build peace, real peace, through organising and understanding.

The writer is president of the Washington-based Arab American Institute.



# King: Our association with Jerusalem stands above the fray of political ploys and earthly greed To the Hashemites, Jerusalem has been an eternal trust

Following is the text of the speech by His Majesty King Hussein at the occasion of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan's celebrations of the completion of the third Hashemite restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock delivered in Amman on Monday, April 18, 1994.

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, Prayers and Peace be upon His faithful Arab Hashemite Prophet and all his companions

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, Arabs and Muslims everywhere,

Peace, compassion and blessings be upon all of you from Allah, the Lord,

PRAISE be to Allah, the Almighty, who sustains the glory of Islam and who, verily, makes the future belong to those who take heed for themselves and follow the straight path. I bear witness that there is no God but Allah, who has no compeers, and that Muhammad (peace be upon him) is the votary and messenger of Allah, who took him on a night journey from the Al Haram Mosque to the Al Aqsa Mosque from where Allah ascended him to the Lote tree (by the Garden of Tranquility) in the higher heavens.

Also, I praise Allah for all His kindness to me, especially since He blessed me with a special favour to be associated with the first Qiblah and the third sacred mosque. This association goes back to the early days of the first great message when Allah brought the light of Islam to Jerusalem. Ever since then, the Holy City thrived in glory, piety and tolerance. It also goes back to the day when the body of the great Al Hussein Bin Ali, was finally laid to rest in the sacred grounds of Al Aqsa. It was that he who had set an example for historical leaders in seeking a balance between attaining glory of the transient moment and immortality in the life hereafter. It was the very same association that was consolidated when I witnessed Abdullah Bin Al-Hussein as he fell a martyr on the sacred grounds of Al-Aqsa Mosque as he stood upright in dignity, like all Hashemites who pass away while still firmly adhering to time-honoured principles and determined to attain their goals against all odds. Little wonder that they have been immortalised in the annals of history.

Islam was in point of fact the message of all God's prophets and messengers whose missions had been sealed by that of Muhammad, peace be upon him. Over and above that, my relationship with Jerusalem is similar to that of any Muslim who believes in God, His Angels, Holy Books, His Messengers, and the Day of Judgement. Thus, with the patient tiny minority of the faithful, we have been striving with all the means at our disposal to defend the cause of our nation, inspired by what the Holy Quran says:

"Remember when you were few and powerless in the land, afraid of despoliation at the hands of men. But then God sheltered and helped you to strength, and provided for you good things that you may perhaps be grateful."

Dear Brethren,

The accomplishment we celebrate today is one of my dearest achievements, namely, the third Hashemite-sponsored renovation of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock. It was by God's grace that I was able to fulfill my obligations seeking only the reward of the exalted Lord.

As I take special pride in and feel happy about this blessing conferred upon me and all Jordanians by the Lord, I must admit that this joyous occasion is sourced by the current state of affairs of this nation and the suffering of its peoples, especially the people of Jerusalem and Palestine. At this moment, my memory takes me back to the morning of Thursday the 28th of Rabee' Al-Awwal of the year 1384 After Hijrah, corresponding to the 6th day of August 1904, when we celebrated in the city of Jerusalem the completion of the first phase of the renovation of Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock. May I recall the very same words I addressed to the nation thirty years ago. The appeal I made on that morning in the distant past was quite timely then as it is now,

for it was intended to alert the entire nation to the dangers of fragmentation. My exact words then were as follows:

"As we celebrate today, we look beyond our immediate scope of vision towards the millions of Arabs and Muslims in Asia and Africa who at this moment collectively set their eyes on Palestine. Let me emphasise that the actual renovation of the Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock assumes significance far beyond the physical repair work on their actual site to include, in addition to the salvation of the Rock, the preservation of its Mosque and the maintenance of its Dome, the complete restoration of our full rights in our usurped land, the dear Arab land (of Palestine)."

I added:

"This country, my dear brethren, has for years been pursuing development efforts at the same time when we were also defending our homeland and nation. The question of Palestine has all along been part and parcel of our national mission. Palestine has always figured prominently in our national construction and defence efforts because Jordan lives for Palestine and for its sake stands ready to sacrifice itself."

This was our plea then which was inspired by historic positions of Al Hussein Bin Ali on Palestine and its holy shrines, positions which settled deep in our hearts and came forth on our lips. They were later reinforced by Faisal Bin Al Hussein's battle cry, "Let us embrace death, brethren Arabs." It was also impressively demonstrated by the sincerity of Abdullah Bin Al Hussein in safeguarding the holy places and his comprehension of the dynamics of our age. It was indeed his sense of duty which

"(W)e say no to any proposed solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem so that the whole city would eventually become a token and symbol of peace for all the faithful children of Abraham... We say no to any peace formula that does not secure the historical and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their sacred national soil... We say not to any peace that the generations to come do not accept, protect and defend."

prompted him to accept the supervision of the renovation work at Al Haram Al Sharif under the patronage of the Amir of the Faithful, Al Hussein Bin Ali, as clearly documented in the letter addressed to him in 1924 by the late Haj Amin Al Hussein, the then Head of the Supreme Islamic Council, may his soul rest in peace. It was Abdullah Bin Al Hussein himself who personally ascended to the roof of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre to direct efforts to fight a fire that threatened the structure of the Church in 1949. Later, he offered the funds needed for complete repair of the damage to the Church.

Our position towards all citizens today is no different. It is the same position demonstrated by our soldiers as they put up legendary resistance in defending the walls, alleys and streets of Jerusalem in the face of the June 1967 aggression. They were the same brave servicemen who kept faith as they fought the Karamah Battle as a perpetuation of their struggle for Jerusalem. They were the ones who neither compromised the Arab rights nor did they waver in their determination to defend those rights or face up to the oppression of the usurpers.

The rights I have in mind are the inalienable rights of the people of Palestine, including the restoration of peace to Al Aqsa Mosque and Al Ibrahim Mosque so that no worshipper there would ever be terrorised by a murderer; so that Salah Eddin's pulpit would never be set ablaze by a bigot; so that children would never be sprayed at point blank with gunfire by a usurper.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, Children of this noble nation,

Thanks to our firm belief in Allah, the Almighty, and by virtue of faith and determination of the righteous people, we have been able to maintain our resolve. Our martyrs' blood rekindles the light that guides us on our way to Jerusalem, the dear and precious Jerusalem, the symbol of perseverance and the crown of peace. To us, the Hashemites, Jerusalem has been an eternal trust (of religious tolerance we cherish) under Al 'Udhah Al-Umariya (Caliph Umar's Coveant) consecrated by Jordanian blood and a symbol of Arab and Muslim strength. Thus, our association with Jerusalem stands above the fray of political ploys and earthly greed since it has been anchored in the faith, prophet-hood, history and martyrdom. We shall keep our pledge and we shall defend the nation's rights to Jerusalem. Nor shall we spare any effort to ensure the restoration of its Arab and Islamic character in accordance with international law. It is our duty to ensure that all holy places in Jerusalem will be subject exclusively to divine sovereignty while in the name of God, the Almighty, the whole Muslim Ummah will exercise religious jurisdiction in a manner to be determined by consensus. In this fashion, we can safeguard a sound link between the past and the present and preserve Caliph Umar's Covenant as a beacon that guides us in our relationship with Jerusalem — the symbol, the history and the holy shrines. For what trust could be dearer and more precious than our holy places there?

Hence, in the name of the martyrs from Al-Hilal (the House of the Prophet) and all our nation's martyrs, especially those who come from this part of the larger Arab and Muslim homeland, we address this appeal to the entire nation to mobilise its resources and rise to the salvation of Al Quds Al

Sharif, and to be able to confront all forms of blockade, oppression and territorial loss. This nation is worthy of nothing less than full freedom, dignity and respectful life. Our grandfathers chose to leave Al-Hijaz earlier in this century in order to spearhead the Great Arab Revolt which advocated liberty, unity and tolerance. In their faithful pursuit of the goals of the Revolt they rallied behind the Muslims and Christians, Arabs and non-Arabs, under the banner of the Great Revolt. They were united in their quest for the noble goals of defending human rights and human dignity and in securing the rights of the people to self-determination. Al Hussein Bin Ali opposed all forms of colonisation and exploitation; and his son, Abdullah Bin Al Hussein opposed all forms of disunity and fragmentation.

And today, we say no to any proposed solution that does not restore Arab sovereignty to Arab Jerusalem so that the whole city would eventually become a token and symbol of peace for all the faithful children of Abraham, peace be upon him.

In the same breath, we say no to any peace formula that does not secure the historical and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their sacred national soil. In other words, we say not to any peace that the generations to come do not accept, protect and defend. For durable peace should be based on fairness, justice and human dignity.

My Dear Fellow Arabs, Distinguished Guests, Today, we celebrate the

completion of renovation work at the Mosque of the Dome of the Holy Rock and our brethren in Jerusalem are observing the same occasion. We are one and the same family. This event is just another reminder of a long history of common heritage marked by patience, cherished memories and satisfaction. I pray to Allah to enable us to fulfill our obligation to the cause of Islam.

To this end, we have started construction work on the mausoleums of the Prophet's companions, may Allah be pleased with them, since they were the first Muslims to set foot on this land and elsewhere in the Muslim World. More so, because they were either from the House of the Prophet or his associates.

This honour will include the other mujahideen who followed in their steps. These mausoleums should be designed and constructed as architectural masterpieces that display to the generation to come the splendour of their achievements as well as to serve as a source of inspiration to them. For this land was the gate to Islamic conquest through Me'ta and Yarmouk, and the passage to Muslim cavalier halations to Hittin and Ein Jalut.

To advance the Islamic agenda, we also initiated work to establish the Al-Hilal University which will be the gift of all members of the House of the Prophet, peace be upon him, to the entire Islamic Ummah.

The institution is conceived to be an Islamic forum that encompasses the glorious past history while it seeks to cope with the challenges of the present and the future. Our ultimate goal is to meet the Lord's wish that this nation will remain "the most favoured among communities raised on this earth." In the same vein, we have reached out to our brethren in the newly-independent Islamic republics. A selected team of our experts are engaged now in providing assistance to those republics in a number of areas, including education, construction and culture. We intended to help in the restoration of the Mausoleum of Al-Qatham Bin Al-Ahbas in Samarkand to its original magnificence, splendour and beauty.

We have also commissioned the restoration of the splendid pulpit of Salah Eddin at its original site in the Al Aqsa Mosque. If any thing, this is our concrete response to the malicious bigots who set it ablaze. We have engaged ourselves in this exercise secure in our knowledge that the pulse of history will do justice to this nation. It was Nour Al Deen Zinki, the renowned Muslim martyr, who ordered the artisans of Aleppo to perfect its manufacture. And Salah Eddin himself moved it to Jerusalem 20 years after it had been built. It is my fervent hope now to see it back in place one day and attend a sermon there in which a preacher would congratulate the nation on restoring freedom and dignity to our Jerusalem.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The current plight of our nation is a very severe one and the prognosis is grim indeed. I can see no salvation except by ensuring genuine freedoms and making sacrifices, in addition to enlightenment and clear vision. Only then can we comprehend the evolution of history with a fresh outlook which would enable us to instill the younger generation a sense of new hope to attain rejuvenation, revival, scientific knowledge and strength. This path would also help us in shaking ourselves loose from the sins of the current epoch of weakness and inertia which are due chiefly to colonial designs, the oil curse and oppressive practices. Down this road, we would perhaps see an end to our senseless hostilities and to the meaningless loss of our resources and blood which are given away in the service of foreign interests. And at the end of the tunnel, the whole nation would emerge free of ethnic intolerance, religious extremism and cultural introversion.

To Jerusalem, the omnipresent city in our minds and hearts, we send our greetings. Without Jerusalem, our lives will always be lacking in har-

mony. For Jerusalem represents our collective memory and common faith. It stands for our epicenter of knowledge, vision and religious tolerance (as exemplified in the Covenant of Umar). It is the focal point of our cherished freedom and dignified peace.

We will continue to warn against and resist all attempts at tampering with our Islamic holy shrines, especially at the first Qibla cum the third holy mosque, and generally throughout the Islamic World. We shall oppose any change in the physical features of these shrines that might be effected under false pretenses of repair, expansion or renovation or under any other smokescreen. For such attempts might strip the nation of its historical legacy to safeguard and maintain them. Our opposition to such endeavours will be mounted on behalf of and in coordination with the entire Islamic Ummah with the view to ensuring the preservation of its sacred common heritage. I must underscore that the appropriate channels for the repair of our holy shrines in Jerusalem are well established, namely, the competent agencies in charge of those holy places, i.e. the Jordanian Ministry of Awaqaf and the Commission on the Renovation of Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock. In point of fact, these two institutions have been fulfilling their mandates without any interruption for many decades.

Palestine has every right to insist on gaining its liberty and safe life. Vigilance is in order to ensure, God willing, victory. To all our martyrs there, beginning with Izzed-Deen Al Qassam to the most recent worshippers at Al Ibrahim Mosque, we invoke Allah's mercy and compassion.

We shall always hold them

in glowing memory and we shall forever remain faithful to the cause for which they gave their lives.

To our dear friends who maintain their steadfastness on the land of Palestine,

To our fellow brothers in Iraq who are courageously facing up to the blockade,

To the Yemenites who are defending the unity, people and national identity of dear Yemen,

And to all other Arabs and Muslims everywhere,

Let me seize this moment to renew the pledge initially undertaken by our forefathers that they will bow their heads in submission to no one except to Allah, the Almighty. They committed themselves to combat injustice and oppression in a manner that behooves their lineage to Hamzah of Uhud, Ja'afar of Mu'ta and al Hussein of Karbala.

Many a Hashemite martyr uttered in soliloquy: "Oh Lord, I have control over none but myself which I offer in duty to Thy cause." And many of them swore on oath to each other that they would fight till death rather than retreat, surrender or disgrace themselves. No wonder that their tombs are still recognised throughout the larger homeland and their names are held in high esteem by Ummah. Their memories are associated with holy events and places which are subject to no authority other than that of the one United Ummah. Their souls seek no permission for prayer at this mosque or that. After all, they were the ones who in their deeds demonstrated to the world the real difference between freedom and bondage, between justice and oppression, between dignity and submission. In the face of a severe crisis, their reaction has always been: "Overwhelming stress demands overwhelming determination." That is be-

cause their consuming dream was to see one united nation living in justice and dignity. A nation that draws its strength from its glorious past, despite all obstacles on the road, the severe limitations and the dim prospects. Since our sense of purpose and challenge will never wane, we shall remain loyal to their mission until the nation gains victory or we meet our Lord, the Creator, as martyrs, for martyrdom would make up for victory in the life hereafter if we failed to achieve it in our life.

If the response of the nation to the challenge on hand appeared sometimes to be weak or limited, or if destruction, fragmentation, poverty and hunger seemed to be spreading out of control, then we should not feel despondent. Rather, we should respond with resolve and determination to rise to the challenge in order to develop a modern Islamic discourse and an integrated model for civilised communal life which revives hope that the whole nation could indeed be reinvented from within in terms of its thinking, orientation, vision and way of life bearing always in mind the need to safeguard freedoms, the pursuit of knowledge, tolerance and justice.

Dear Brothers and Sisters, From this platform in Amman, which stands for the Arab cause, freedom and steadfastness, I say: Peace be upon Jerusalem and greetings of peace Jordanians send to their kinsfolk there. These are the Jordanians who never failed to respond to the call of duty dictated by blood ties and their sense of morality. These are the Jordanians who never lost vision of Al Aqsa Mosque with all the sentiments of worship, martyrdom and pride it evokes in their souls. Peace be upon Jerusalem of

Al Farouk (Caliph Umar), of Salah Eddin and of Al Hussein Ben Ali.

Peace be upon its Rock, and the first Qibla, the site of the Prophet's night journey and his ascension therefrom to heavens.

Peace be upon the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Let us hope that peace will bring back to Jerusalem its old days of joy and glory.

These words of peace emanate from Jordan where dignity and pride have become its hallmark, where the pursuit of Islamic and Arab agenda is a passion, and where the safeguard of freedoms is a major concern.

These sentiments of peace are sent by the Jordanians who lost not their hearts in this era of regression, nor did they knuckle under siege or lose focus in the darkest nights.

We send greetings of peace to the jewel of all the cities of the Ummah. We pray for the rest of souls of all martyrs who fell on its soil, of all worshippers who said their prayers in its mosques and churches, of all scholars who went through its schools. We salute all its inhabitants who are enduring the oppression of the occupier while struggling for its freedom and glory.

My Dear Brothers and Sisters, In closing, let me salute all of you and welcome once again our guests who came from several places in the larger homeland of our Ummah. I should also like to pay tribute to all those who contribute to the renovation effort, especially the supervisors, designers, builders and artisans. I pray to Allah, the Almighty, to guide us all along the right path to win His satisfaction. Amee.

May Allah bring upon you one and all peace, compassion and blessings.

Under the Patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdallah Bin Al Hussein

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## EBRD opens meeting, promising private sector aid

ST PETERSBURG (R) — A leaner European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) opened its annual meeting Monday, promising to move closer to the people who need its cash and concentrate help on emerging "private firms."

Delegates crowded into St. Petersburg's ornate Taurichesky Palace for the start of the meeting, which brings together bankers, ministers and industrialists from East and West.

Officials said the bank had put past problems behind it and was ready to concentrate on a new expanded role.

"Helping former communist countries move towards democracy and the market economy is one of the greatest challenges of our time," EBRD president Jacques de Larosiere told delegates. "What is at stake is nothing less than the reintegration of the countries of the region into Europe and the world economy."

The EBRD was set up to channel financial help to the countries of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. It aims particularly to aid the private sector, using its own small projects as catalysts to trigger investment from other sources.

But the bank's performance last year was overshadowed by a bruising row over the cost of setting up the institution and refurbishing its London headquarters.

Flamboyant president Jacques Attali quit as the row rumbled on, to be replaced by Mr. De Larosiere.

The new president said reorganisation carried out last year had enabled the institution to save costs and better meet the needs of its members.

The bank now planned to be active in each individual member state, regardless of the fact that some had moved further than others on the road to economic reform.

"Last year... the EBRD was an institution facing three urgent problems — a problem of image and credibility, a problem of organisation and efficiency and insufficient clarity in the definition of its objectives and missions," he said.

Mr. De Larosiere said future activity aimed to improve the effectiveness of EBRD operations.



Jacques de Larosiere

This could include a more active approach towards equity investment, taking direct stakes in firms and projects in the countries where it operates.

This idea has the backing of many of the institution's governors — finance ministers and central bank heads.

U.S. Treasury Undersecretary Lawrence Summers agreed the bank should be ready to take more stakes in firms in the region. "Now... it is time to think how the bank can further contribute... to extend its reach and strengthen its capacity," he said.

When the bank was set up many economists questioned the need for yet another institution channelling funds from rich countries to poorer ones, but ministers at the meeting welcomed the bank's role in assisting lending and economic reform.

"The bank now has every opportunity to become one of the leading financial and lending institutions for eastern Europe," Ukrainian Finance Minister Hrihory Pyatachenko said.

Anne Wibbe, Swedish finance minister and chairwoman of the EBRD board of governors, said the bank had emerged from last year's crisis in stronger shape and its performance was now back on track.

"The bank's profitability is not our target per se," Mr. Wibbe said, "the real dividends will be a flourishing financial sector in the countries themselves."

## Lockerbie sanctions cut AFS '93 profit

MANAMA (R) — Bahrain-based Arab Financial Services Co. E.C. (AFS) said Sunday that U.S. sanctions related to the Lockerbie airline bombing caused its net profit to plunge in 1993, forcing it to scrap its dividend.

The firm, owned by 56 Arab banks and financial services, announced its net profit had fallen to \$2 million from \$3.5 million in 1992.

The company's annual assembly approved a board recommendation not to pay a dividend. For 1992 there had been a dividend of \$2.4 million.

"The company reported that earnings in 1993 were adversely affected by the decision by the U.S. authorities to list AFS as a specially designated national of Libya," AFS said.

The U.S. measures are designed to force Libya to surrender two suspects wanted in the 1988 sabotage of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

In declaring AFS to be Libyan, Washington froze AFS assets in the United States on Dec. 20, causing the company to suspend its travellers cheque, payment card and bank-note dealing operations.

The company and the Bahraini authorities argued that Libya had only minority shareholding, though its chairman was Libyan national Abdullah Saudi, the now departing president and chief executive of Arab Banking Corp. BSC (ABC).

Mr. Saudi announced this month that he had resigned as AFS chairman, replaced on an acting basis by Saudi Arabia's National Commercial Bank Deputy General Manager Abdul Hadi Shaif.

The company's assembly meeting in Bahrain Saturday, elected Mr. Shaif as chairman, no longer acting, and elected ABC First Vice-President Aduan Yousef as deputy chairman.

The statement said AFS profits up to Dec. 21 had been \$2.7 million, but that was reduced to \$2 million by costs related to the write-off of travellers cheques and other expenses related to the U.S. decision.

## Ciller says U.S. supports Turkey's economic plan

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller said Monday the United States and international financial institutions backed her economic austerity programme.

"I can clearly say the U.S. administration has given full support to the measures," Ms. Ciller told reporters at the airport on her return from a four-day visit to the United States.

Ms. Ciller's long-awaited economic package, announced on April 5, calls for one-off taxes, quick privatisations, the closure of some loss-making state firms, selling public property and tightening control on state expenditure.

Ms. Ciller said the World Bank, International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Western banks also backed the measures.

The Turkish treasury can no longer borrow from domestic markets. Its ability to raise money on the international markets has been weakened following cuts in its credit rating by Moody's and Standard and Poor's.

IMF managing Director Michel Camdessus said last week Turkey and the fund would start immediate talks on a stand-by accord. He described Ms. Ciller's programme as "courageous and deserving of IMF support."

A stand-by agreement with the IMF is likely to facilitate Turkey's access to international debt markets.

Officials said Turkey should find some \$3.0 billion for the rest of 1994 to meet its debt service payments on time.

They said the IMF was likely to urge Turkey to abolish farm subsidies, privatise its state-owned economy, lower real wage levels and avoid keeping its currency over-valued under a medium-term stabilisation programme.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said Turkey should narrow its public deficits to cut inflation — the main target of Ms. Ciller's programme, which some bankers have criticised as being too loosely-defined.

Economists expect private sector manufacturing industry prices, a leading indicator of core inflation, to rise by more than 30 per cent this month.



Tansu Ciller

Government officials said Turkey had agreed to ask the IMF for a stand-by deal which would enable it to win financial support from the IMF and remove obstacles to other foreign borrowing.

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## MEES: Saudi banks cut defence loan to \$1.3 billion

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Saudi Arabian banks have slashed \$500 million from a \$1.85 billion commercial loan sought by the cash-strapped government to finance deferred payments to U.S. defence companies, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said Monday.

The April 13 loan, to finance the first of the deferred payments, was cut back to \$1.3 billion "due to lack of interest from banks," the oil industry newsletter said.

This is the first time that Saudi banks have refused a request for a loan of this size by the government, which has been borrowing heavily from them in recent years.

The oil-rich kingdom is grappling with unprecedented financial problems after years of breakneck spending and balance of payments deficits and is finding it difficult to borrow from major international banks which are concerned about Riyadh's debt strategy.

"The need to reduce the amount borrowed is the first concrete sign that Saudi banks' ability to provide the government with huge amounts of cash at short notice is finite," MEES reported.

"The banks' reluctance to the loan stemmed partly from the amount of Saudi government debt which they already have on their books and from the knowledge that several more loans are in the pipeline," MEES noted.

Saudi Arabia and its five major U.S. arms suppliers — McDonnell Douglas, General Dynamics Corp., Raytheon Co., FMC Corp. and the Hughes Aircraft division of General Motors — agreed Jan. 29 to restructure \$9.2 billion in payments due over the next two years.

Under that accord, Riyadh will pay the U.S. companies \$1.5 billion directly in cash in 1994 and 1995, with the balance of \$6.2 billion covered by loans.

The \$9.2 billion covers part of the \$30 billion in weapons systems purchased from the U.S. companies since 1989, a development spurred by the 1991 Gulf war.

The restructuring agreement primarily affects a \$9 billion deal by Saudi Arabia for 72 McDonnell Douglas F-15E fighter jets. Instead of taking delivery of two a month beginning next year, they will get one a month.

Other deals include the purchase of 315 M1A2 Abrams tanks from General Dynamics and a \$800 million computerised air defence network from Hughes Aircraft.

Saudi Arabia, the world's major oil exporter which sits atop reserves estimated at 255 billion barrels, had had to bite the financial bullet because of a 30 per cent drop in oil prices and the \$55 to \$60 billion cost of the Gulf war.

It has also had to finally tackle the lingering problems of chronic current account shortfalls and budget deficits.

The government cut expenditure by 20 per cent earlier this year after having eaten into the formidable financial reserves accumulated during the oil boom years.

In 1992, these were \$171 billion. They now total around \$30 billion.

The Saudis initially planned to approach international banks, including Chase Manhattan, Citibank and J.P. Morgan. But it "became clear that the money could not be raised from international banks in time," MEES said.

Bankers had expected the Saudis would have a tough time with the international banks. U.S. banks were focusing on financing a \$6 billion deal by Saudi Arabia's national airline, to modernise its fleet with American aircraft.

Japanese banks do not lend for defence contracts and Europe's prefer backing European contracts.

The weekly newsletter said Riyadh had to turn to Saudi banks, which "require fewer approval and documentation procedures" to lend to the government.

The National Commercial, Riyadh and Saudi American banks are underwriting the seven-year loan, each for 300 million Saudi riyals (\$78 million), MEES said.

It noted that the amounts taken by other banks were not confirmed. But it said the Saudi British Bank took 100 million riyals (\$26 million) and the Saudi French, Saudi Dutch and Saudi Cairo each took 50 million riyals (\$13 million).

The Gulf International Bank was understood to have taken more than 100 million riyals (\$26 million), it said.

The remainder of the loan will come from Saudi and Gulf banks, as yet not identified.

Some Saudi banks did not participate, apparently because the government was expected to seek further large loans.

## IMF official seeks rate cuts in Japan, Germany

WASHINGTON (R) — Germany and Japan could cut interest rates further and the United States raise them as part of a global strategy to promote long-lasting world economic growth, a senior IMF official said.

Briefing reporters ahead of the International Monetary Fund's semi-annual meeting next week, the official also called on the United States to narrow its budget deficit and Japan to extend its tax cuts so as to aid their economies and the rest of the world.

He said that global growth looks set to pick up to around three per cent this year and 3½ to four per cent next year.

But he added that some industrial nations, including Japan, Germany, France, and Italy, will see their economies lag in 1994, and that unemployment, particularly in Europe remains a major worry.

"The (Japanese) economy is now bottoming out and could recover, but slowly during the next few months," the official, who declined to be named, said.

To help ensure that growth returns to more acceptable levels next year, Japan should prolong this year's scheduled tax cuts until the economy is well into a recovery, he said.

The tax cuts, which form the core of a \$145 billion budget stimulus package unveiled by Japan earlier this year, are currently only slated to last one year.

A further cut in Japanese interest rates could also help boost the economy, even though rates there are already low, he said.

In making the case for lower Japanese rates, the official argued that Japan's economy is weak without any inflation and the Japanese authorities consider the yen overvalued.

Lower rates would tend to weaken the yen by making it a less profitable currency to hold.

The IMF official also advocated lower interest rates in Germany and said that's what he expects the Bundesbank to deliver. The German central bank just last week cut leading interest rates by a quarter percentage point — a move the IMF official welcomed.

"I see the German economy still at a very low level of activity," the official said.

"I have no doubt the German authorities will prudently but steadfastly continue their efforts to make monetary conditions more in line with the needs of the German economy and of their neighbouring countries," he added.

While the German and Japanese economies are languishing, that of the United States is moving ahead apace and is quickly approaching full capacity. To help ensure that the economy does not overheat, the IMF official advocated a mixture of budget deficit cuts and short-term interest rate increases in the United States.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) has already raised short-term rates twice this year in a bid to head off future inflation and prolong the economic upturn.

The senior IMF official welcomed the central bank's actions and said he expects further rate increases in the future.

"I expect them to continue tightening the monetary stance, not to diminish in any way the growth of the economy, but to make it sustainable," he said.

Some analysts have criticised the Fed for moving too slowly to tighten monetary policy to hold price rises in check and have argued that's why inflation-wary investors have pushed up long-term rates.

But the IMF official rejected that view, and instead blamed the increase in long-term rates on worries about America's budget deficit.

He said the United States should take advantage of its buoyant economy to cut its deficit still further, arguing that would help stabilise long-term rates.

## ANC says new S. Africa good investment bet

JOHANNESBURG (R) — A top African National Congress (ANC) official said he was confident that post-apartheid South Africa would prove a good investment bet.

Trevor Manuel, head of the ANC's Economic Planning Department, said he expected the political situation to stabilise after the country's first all-race elections on April 26-28.

The ANC official, whose party is widely expected to dominate the new government of national unity, also envisaged a number of important signals on economic and other policy in coming months for potential investors to digest.

"I'm very confident that all this will provide the signal to investors and the world that this is the place to invest," he told reporters.

He said many international investors potentially interested in direct investment were, understandably, biding their time.

Political uncertainty was one reason, but once the elections were over a clear strategy to deal with violence should send an important signal to them, he said.

"Secondly, they would like to see how South African corporates respond. On this score I'm pretty confident that we will see... a very strong signal of confidence emanating from South African corporates to changes in South Africa," he said.

Other important signals which investors would look for would include the state of nation address in May by the new president, who is likely to be ANC leader Nelson Mandela, and the post-apartheid government's first budget which is expected within months of the new administration taking office.

"Those signals... I think, will see a situation that will turn the minds of foreign investors to this country," he pointed out.

Mr. Manuel and leading ANC election candidate Jay Naidoo last week formally launched the party's official reconstruction and development programme, showing no fundamental change from previously announced strategy.

Mr. Naidoo stressed however, that all major stakeholders in society, including big business, had been and would continue to be consulted on policy formation. Business, he said, had responded enthusiastically to the ANC's approach.

"We are involved at the moment in a very detailed and intensive discussion with every major stakeholder in society, and that process is producing the type of message of confidence, of trust in the ability of the ANC to govern this country," he added.

The "people-driven" programme places priority on redressing major backlogs spawned by apartheid in areas such as health, housing and education.

It proposes a public works scheme to create 2.5 million jobs over 10 years, and in the next five years build one million homes, provide power for 2.5 million and redistribute 30 per cent of farm land.

Mr. Manuel put the cost at 39 billion rand (\$10.83 billion) over next five years, but said the bulk could be funded from existing resources.

For instance, only one education department was needed, rather than the current 14, and the defence force secret budget account of 3.83 billion rand (\$1.06 billion), which fell outside normal defence spending and was understood to fund weapons development, procurement and covert operations, could be reviewed.

It has also had to finally tackle the lingering problems of chronic current account shortfalls and budget deficits.

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"I see the German economy still at a very low level of activity," the official said.

"I have no doubt the German authorities will prudently but steadfastly continue their efforts to make monetary conditions more in line with the needs of the German economy and of their neighbouring countries," he added.

While the German and Japanese economies are languishing, that of the United States is moving ahead apace and is quickly approaching full capacity. To help ensure that the economy does not overheat, the IMF official advocated a mixture of budget deficit cuts and short-term interest rate increases in the United States.

The Federal Reserve (Fed) has already raised short-term rates twice this year in a bid to head off future inflation and prolong the economic upturn.

The senior IMF official welcomed the central bank's actions and said he expects further rate increases in the future.

"I expect them to continue tightening the monetary stance, not to diminish in any way the growth of the economy, but to make it sustainable," he said.

Some analysts have criticised the Fed for moving too slowly to tighten monetary policy to hold price rises in check and have argued that's why inflation-wary investors have pushed up long-term rates.

But the IMF official rejected that view, and instead blamed the increase in long-term rates on worries about America's budget deficit.

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**LONDON (R)** — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession of the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3844/54	Canadian dollar
	1.7108/18	Deutschmarks
	1.9202/12	Dutch guilders
	1.4536/46	Swiss francs
	35.21/25	Belgian francs
	5.8530/80	French francs
	1630.82/3	Italian lire
	103.64/74	Japanese yen
	7.8925/25	Swedish crowns
	7.4180/30	Norwegian crowns
	6.7050/00	Danish crowns
One sterling	\$1.4708/18	
One ounce of gold	\$376.90/377.40	

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## U.N. commander warns of Gorazde catastrophe; Serbs renew shelling

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb forces battered Gorazde with shellfire Monday and U.N. commander General Michael Rose said the Muslim town was teetering on the brink of a major humanitarian catastrophe.

"Shells are now dropping at random on the town centre," said U.N. official Kris Janowski. "The hospital took a direct hit on the roof and the refugee centre has been shelled as well."

"There has been one shell impact every 20 seconds this morning," Mr. Janowski, a spokesman for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sarajevo, told Reuters.

More than 30,000 terrified refugees are sheltering in Gorazde, swelling the population to 65,000 people.

Thousands of mostly Muslim refugees from villages near the town, 70 kilometres south-east of Sarajevo, have flooded in during a 19-day Serb onslaught on the enclave, a U.N.-designated safe area.

Mr. Janowski said 37 people were killed in Serb shelling Sunday, bringing the death toll to 302, including 41 children. In 19 days, a total of 1,072 have been wounded.

The Serbs launched the fresh attack less than a day after Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic told the U.N.'s special envoy Yasushi Akashi and Russia's peace emissary Vitaly Churkin that his side was prepared to sign a ceasefire for Gorazde.

General Rose, the U.N. force commander in Bosnia, accused the Serbs of exploiting

the U.N. to further their war aims by ignoring their own ceasefire assurances.

"The town is at their mercy and we are on the edge of a major humanitarian catastrophe," he said.

Seven U.N. soldiers were evacuated by helicopter from Gorazde Monday, leaving only five U.N. military observers in the town bunkered down against the renewed Serb attack.

"All seven forward air controllers were evacuated at 0430 local (0230 GMT) by helicopter from Gorazde," Gen. Rose told a news briefing in Sarajevo.

The men were believed to have been involved in directing NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions near Gorazde last week.

"Their departure would make further air support much less likely," U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Major Rob Annink told the briefing.

The evacuation was likely to intensify criticism that the U.N. was abandoning mainly Muslim citizens and refugees to their fate. U.S. President Bill Clinton said Sunday fresh air strikes to help defend Gorazde were unlikely.

But Gen. Rose said U.N. peacekeeping forces were not in Bosnia to fight wars and could do little with the restricted mandate and few light-armed soldiers it had.

"We are here to keep peace. We do not fight war from white-painted (U.N.) vehicles... we have limited means and resources," Gen. Rose said.

The U.N.'s virtual admission of defeat in safeguarding Gorazde and growing humiliation at the hands of Bosnian Serb forces came after days of entreaties to Serb leaders not to overrun the enclave.

Selective NATO air strikes called in last week by the United Nations to protect U.N. personnel in Gorazde failed to halt the Serb onslaught.

Gen. Rose was clearly outraged by the conduct of the Bosnian Serb leadership who had assured Mr. Akashi and Mr. Churkin that it was prepared to sign an agreement for Gorazde and pull back its troops three kilometres from the town.

The Japanese diplomat apparently later failed in talks with Bosnia's Muslim-led government in Sarajevo to persuade them to back a truce, saying that Gorazde remained under serious threat.

Meanwhile, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Monday the European Union will look to strengthen, not abandon, its peace efforts in Bosnia after the latest Bosnian Serb assaults on Gorazde.

Speaking to reporters on arrival for a meeting of EU foreign ministers, Mr. Hurd said: "I do not think that the Europeans will decide to abandon Bosnia or the effort in Bosnia so long as the benefits to the people in Bosnia outweigh the risks."

Mr. Hurd said there was now a "serious and dangerous situation in Gorazde but this was not an argument for abandoning the whole effort so long as it did good."

Mr. Hurd said the United

Nations might face difficult decisions later unless things improved. Adding: "We are not at that point yet. But we are certainly not going to get involved in a war on behalf of one side or the other."

He said the EU ministers, after hearing a report from mediator Lord Owen, would seek "to work out ways to strengthen the effort rather than to abandon it."

France said Monday it was against any "surrender or escalation."

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told a news conference the priority was to "set the peace process back on the rails."

"What should we do now? I would say neither a surrender nor an escalation. There may be a strong temptation to give up, but we do not share this," he said.

"Nor would we get anywhere with an escalation, either in lifting the embargo on arms sales or in launching massive air attacks."

Mr. Juppe pressed for a revival of peace negotiations under the joint sponsorship of outside powers, saying they must speak with a united voice.

"We are pushing for the creation over the next few days, and it could take place tomorrow, of a negotiating group with representatives of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations," he said.

"As long as this common stance has not been defined, people will continue to play on supposed divisions between the great powers and this will help the duplicity we have seen once again," he said.



African National Congress (ANC) President Nelson Mandela and Western Cape ANC leader Alan Boesak (Zad right) greet the crowd as they enter an election rally in Cape Town (AFP)

## Buthelezi, De Klerk hold crisis talks

PRETORIA (R) — President F.W. de Klerk held crisis talks with Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi Monday in what political sources said was a last-ditch bid to end his boycott of South Africa's historic all-race elections.

Political sources said the talks, confirmed by a government spokesman, were intended to give Inkatha Freedom Party leader Buthelezi a final chance to play a part in the April 26-28 election process to end 350 years of white domination.

"We really are down to the wire," said one political source. "The president decided he wanted to give it one final push."

The sources said Mr. De Klerk had spent much of the weekend formulating proposals.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is demanding virtual self-rule in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, would be told "very firmly" that this was his last chance to board the election train, the sources added.

Mr. Buthelezi told reporters Sunday he still hoped Inkatha could take part. "We still hope a way might be made for us to participate in the elections, even at this late stage," he said.

A Natal Security Committee spokeswoman reported 20 people killed over the weekend, bringing to at least 238 the death toll since De Klerk imposed a state of emergency on the KwaZulu homeland and surrounding Natal to quell pre-election violence.

More than 15,000 people have died in political violence in four years of apartheid reform. Mostly in fighting be-

tween supporters of the African National Congress — which is widely tipped to win the elections comfortably — and Inkatha.

Mr. Buthelezi said Saturday a meeting of South Africa's main political players could "quite possibly" take place. His comments followed the collapse last week of an international mediation mission designed to end election violence.

A summit including Mr. De Klerk, Mr. Buthelezi, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini on March 19 failed to make any progress towards a political settlement.

In the black Johannesburg township of Tokoza, shooting erupted Monday around a migrant workers' hostel housing supporters of Inkatha.

Witnesses said the shooting began after ANC supporters tried to put up an election banner. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Witnesses said members of the National Peacekeeping Force, which replaced army troops in Tokoza Wednesday, arrested three youths armed with AK-47 assault rifles. Their identity was not immediately known, but the location and the reaction of a nearby crowd suggested they were ANC members.

Peacekeepers, who sealed off the hostel, had been on alert in case of trouble following an Inkatha decision to postpone a central Johannesburg march.

The march, planned for Monday, was banned by police to prevent bloodshed. A Zulu march in Johannesburg on March 28 sparked clashes in which 53 people were killed.

Tokoza residents said there had also been shooting in the area Sunday afternoon when two people were wounded.

In Johannesburg, police raided the regional office of the ANC in the country's commercial capital and freed four apparent Inkatha supporters, including a boy of 14, from basement cells.

Police spokesman Dave Bruce said there was evidence the four, who described themselves as Inkatha supporters, had been badly beaten and said charges of assault and kidnapping could be brought.

There was no immediate comment from the ANC. On Sunday a stampede at a South African election rally crushed three people to death and seriously injured 21.

A six-year-old boy was among the dead in panic scenes at an election rally addressed by Mr. Mandela, strongly tipped to become South Africa's first black president.

The incident was the worst of its kind in the official campaign for South Africa's April 26-28 all-race elections.

King Goodwill plans to call mass meetings of all Zulus coinciding with a boycott of the elections on April 26-28, sources close to the king said Monday.

"The imbizo (mass meeting) will be held at the royal kral in Nongoma from April 26-28," one source told Reuters.

The king has already said he could not advise the country's 8.4 million Zulus to participate in the elections.

"The king will officially tell his subjects to defy any orders from the new government and defend themselves," the source told Reuters.

## Patriot missiles arrive in S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Two U.S. ships carrying Patriot air defence missiles docked in South Korea Monday as Seoul and Washington raised the pressure on Communist North Korea to curtail about its suspected nuclear arm programme.

Amid tight security, two U.S. ships, the Meuse and the Comet, were escorted by South Korean patrol boats into the southern port of Pusan at dawn.

Witnesses saw a number of camouflage-painted trucks come off the ships. A Defence Ministry spokesman would not confirm the arrival of the missiles, but U.S. officials have said Patriots were on board.

As the missiles were being unloaded, a senior U.S. official

visiting South Korea held talks with President Kim Young-Sam, Unification Minister Lee Yung-Dug and other officials to discuss joint steps aimed at breaking the impasse over the North's suspected nuclear programme.

Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci, the Clinton administration's new coordinator on North Korea, shared the view that the Stalinist state would face sanctions if it did not promptly comply with a U.N. request to allow full inspections of its suspect nuclear sites, Seoul government officials said.

They said the United States would consider a high-level meeting with the North only after Pyongyang opened its sites and allowed U.N. inspection.

tors to make thorough checks.

The U.N. Security Council issued a statement on March 31 urging the North to allow inspections. Although China, North Korea's last remaining major ally, blocked U.S. moves to threaten sanctions in a stronger resolution.

President Kim told a meeting of the Pacific-Asia Travel Association in Seoul Monday he believed North Korea would not be able to continue to defy world opinion embodied by the U.N. Security Council statement.

"It is hard to imagine that Pyongyang will dare to resort to any act of military provocation in the face of iron-clad (South) Korean-U.S. security arrangements," Mr. Kim said.

attack's "far-reaching" impact.

Xinhua identified the suspects as Wu Lihong, 22, Hu Zhilian, 24, and Yu Aijun, 23, all of Zhejiang.

The three had "confessed to plotting, preparing and carrying out the robbery and murders and setting fire to the boat", Xinhua said.

Mr. Li said: "I'd like to take this opportunity to express my condolences over the death of those compatriots from both Taiwan and the mainland, and I'd also like to express my sympathy to the families of the victims," he said.

In Taiwan, officials said it was too early to reverse the decision to suspend cultural exchanges and ban tours to China. Interior Minister Wu Poh-Hsiung told reporters that China still had not provided enough information on the tragedy.

"Can you believe that three men can kill 32 people, even with guns? Nobody managed to jump into the water? I think the Chinese Communists simply want to get some scapegoats so that they can get out of this quickly," said Chuang Hsin-Fang, widow of one of the Taiwan victims.

## China moves to end row over Taiwanese deaths

BEIJING (R) — Premier Li Peng indicated Monday China had closed its inquiry into the Qiondao boat fire, ignoring charges in Taiwan of army complicity in a deadly attack that damaged uneasy ties between the rivals.

"What really happened with regard to the Qiondao Lake incident has already been found out and the criminals in the case have already been detained," Mr. Li told reporters before leaving for a tour of Central Asia.

"This is a heinous criminal offence and we will seriously punish those criminals," Mr. Li said in a briefing.

Reporters were not allowed to press Mr. Li on allegations leaked by Taiwan intelligence that the arson attack was the work of renegade soldiers in the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

China said Sunday that police in coastal Zhejiang province had arrested three men for murder, robbery and arson in the mysterious March 31 pleasure-boat fire on Qiondao Lake that killed 24 Taiwan tourists and eight mainland crew.

But Beijing continued to

keep the case under wraps, disclosing no details about its inquiry, the suspects or what evidence led to their arrest.

China's secrecy despite persistent questions about the attack jeopardised an ongoing thaw in relations with Taiwan, its arch-rival since the Chinese Civil War ended in 1949.

Taiwan's Nationalist rulers have banned all group tours to China from May 1, citing dissatisfaction with the inquiry by what it denounced as Communist China's "bandit" authorities.

Taiwan government sources quoted intelligence reports Saturday as saying China's army was responsible.

The reports said Beijing, scrambling to limit the political damage and preserve the lucrative Taiwan tourism business, chose to cover up the military's alleged role.

More than one million Taiwanese travellers pumped at least \$589 million into China's economy in 1993.

Mr. Li did not address Taiwan's allegations and gave a clear impression that the case was closed, saying in resolute terms that "the criminals in the case" had been arrested and

faced serious punishment.

The official Xinhua News Agency had said Sunday only that "three suspects" were arrested in a probe that was far from finished, noting that police were "seizing every minute to investigate" the case.

Zhejiang provincial and police officials reached by phone Monday gave Reuters a uniform response — "please watch the newspapers for details" — indicating Qiondao now was a matter for Beijing's propaganda machine, which controls all media.

A spokeswoman at the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said by phone that the question of possible army complicity "sounds like a rumour" but pledged to look into the matter.

The Taiwan intelligence report said PLA troops robbed the 24 Taiwan tourists on the pleasure-boat Hainui, then torched it and its passengers and crew with flamethrowers.

The report said Chinese authorities learned of the army's role the next day but protected the soldiers by returning the stolen goods to the smouldering vessel, hoping to avert what they feared would be the

## Fraternity charged with prostitution

DURHAM (R) — A New Hampshire grand jury has indicted a college fraternity house on prostitution charges after it allegedly hired strippers to perform oral sex at a party, officials said Sunday. A Stratford County grand jury handed down the indictment charging the 20-member Zeta Chi fraternity on the University of New Hampshire campus with prostitution, said county attorney Lincoln Soldati. He said Zeta Chi had violated a state statute prohibiting the use of a place for prostitution. A second indictment charges the fraternity with selling alcohol to minors, Mr. Soldati said, adding that "the frat house could be fined 'substantially.'"

The prostitution charge stems from a Feb. 21 party in which two strippers were hired to perform oral sex on students and on each other while money was thrown at them, according to the indictment. "There was money exchanged for acts of penetration," Mr. Soldati said.

Fraternity president David Flanders, a 21-year-old political science major at the university, said he did not know how the fraternity would plead at the arraignment date, which has not yet been scheduled.

Police spokesman Dave Bruce said there was evidence the four, who described themselves as Inkatha supporters, had been badly beaten and said charges of assault and kidnapping could be brought.

There was no immediate comment from the ANC. On Sunday a stampede at a South African election rally crushed three people to death and seriously injured 21.

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## Aristide assails U.S. policy on Haiti

BERKELEY, Calif. (R) — Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide strongly criticised U.S. policy on Haiti Sunday and urged Washington to increase sanctions against Haiti's military rulers. Mr. Aristide told a news conference during a visit to Berkeley, California, that he was unhappy with President Bill Clinton's policy on Haiti, which he described as "a racist policy" and "a clear violation of human rights."

He condemned the U.S. policy of forcibly repatriating Haitian refugees trying to flee the island, where, according to news reports, a new wave of political terror has been launched against supporters of Mr. Aristide.

The military ousted Mr. Aristide in a coup in September 1991, seven months after he took office as Haiti's first democratically-elected president. Attempts to negotiate his return to power have failed.

Mr. Aristide said he did not want the United States to send troops to Haiti, but he said he would like Washington to do "half of what they said they would be doing" to restore him to office.

He said the United States had said it would increase sanctions against Haiti if the military did not step down by Jan. 15. "That would be good to that, to see them doing that," he said.

"We cannot any more accept genocide at 90 minutes by plane from Florida," Mr. Aristide said.

He said the United States could do something about the situation in Haiti if it wanted to.

"It's a question of 'do we really mean what we say when we say democracy?' The Haitian people are dying for democracy. Are we ready to help them? So we wish they will express their political will through actions," he said.

Later in a speech to several hundred people at a Berkeley church, Mr. Aristide urged supporters to mount an international effort to increase sanctions against the Haitian military.

Mr. Aristide asked how the U.S. government could welcome Cuban refugees and yet send back Haitian refugees.

"In Haiti, we have a house on fire, when some of them escape, the American Coast Guard takes them and sends them back to this house on fire. It's a crime... It's a racist policy," he said.

Meanwhile, a second U.S. congressman has raised the idea of an American military invasion of Haiti, but only after first tightening sanctions against the troubled Caribbean state.

## Japan ruling coalition nears accord on policy

TOKYO (R) — Japan's ruling coalition, after days of agonised talks that pushed it to the brink of collapse, neared agreement Monday on a policy platform that would clear the hurdle to choosing a new national leader.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's



## Orlando ends Bulls' 10-game win streak

ORLANDO, Florida (R) — Shaquille O'Neal scored 32 points to lead the Orlando Magic to an impressive 118-101 victory over the Chicago Bulls Sunday, snapping the Bulls' 10-game winning streak.

Scottie Pippen scored 34 points for Chicago, which dropped 1½ games behind first-place Atlanta in the Central Division and half a game behind the Knicks in the Eastern Conference. Orlando remained a distant fourth in the conference.

Nick Anderson, who finished with 22 points, scored nine points and O'Neal seven in a 21-8 run that bridged the third and fourth quarters to take a 99-84 lead with 7:24 to play.

Pippen kept the Bulls close with 13 points in the third quarter but was held scoreless in the fourth.

O'Neal grabbed 14 rebounds and 11 points for the Magic, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Jeff Turner scored 15 points for Orlando before suffering a knee injury in the fourth quarter.

In Charlotte, Larry Johnson scored 22 points and grabbed 12 rebounds as the Hornets kept their faint playoff hopes alive with a 107-91 victory over the New York Knicks.

Hersey Hawkins added 20 points as the Hornets pulled to within 1½ games of the Miami Heat — who lost Sunday — in the race for the final Eastern Conference playoff slot.

Patrick Ewing scored 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for New York, which fell a game behind Atlanta for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

The Knicks have dropped four of their last six games. In Miami, Kenny Anderson scored 24 of his 29 points in the second half as the New Jersey Nets rallied to a 110-103 win over the Heat, clinching their third straight playoff berth.

In Portland, Vernon Maxwell kicked off a late 12-3 run with a four-point play and the Houston Rockets clinched their second straight Midwest Division title with a 119-110 win over the Trail Blazers.

Maxwell scored 27 points, including 6-of-11 from beyond the 3-point line, and added eight assists. Hakeem Olajuwon scored a game-high 29 points.

The Rockets were 10-of-18 from 3-point range. Their 406 3-pointers this season are the most in NBA history, surpassing the Phoenix Suns' total of 398 last season.

At Detroit, the Indiana Pacers used a 15-3 fourth-quarter run to clinch a playoff berth with a 104-99 win over the Pistons.

Rik Smits and Scott each had 16 points for the Pacers, who had seven players in double figures.

Isiah Thomas had 22 points and Joe Dumars scored 20 for Detroit, which lost its ninth straight.

At Minnesota, Laphonso Ellis had 21 points and nine rebounds and the playoff-bound Denver Nuggets dominated the second half en route to a 99-88 win over the Timberwolves.

The Nuggets, who earned the eighth playoff berth in the Western Conference Friday, trailed 55-44 at halftime, but outscored the Timberwolves 55-34 after intermission.

At Washington, Don MacLean scored 21 points and Calbert Cheaney added 20 as the Bulls posted their most decisive victory ever over the Boston Celtics, 142-100.

The 42-point margin surpassed the Baltimore Bullets' 132-92 triumph over Boston in 1966.

## 5 teams to participate in Al Jazireh basketball tourney

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It seems basketball fans will have their hands full this summer with brimming activities that are bound to leave a positive impact on the sport in the Kingdom.

Apart from the already well publicised April 22 charity between Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxy that will be attended by former heavyweight boxing champion Mohammad Ali, the Arab Radio and Television (ART) tournament will bring together a host of top Arab clubs between May 5-15.

However, one basketball event stands apart — the Al Jazireh international tournament — a week-long event in which top five women's teams will be competing.

Al Jazireh — Jordan's newly crowned women's champions — will be hosting Syria's Al Jala' Lebanon's Homentmen, a select team from the occupied territories, in addition to a promising team — Kefalovryos of Cyprus — between July 22-29.

Representatives from the Cypriot club left Amman Sunday after meeting with their hosts in addition to a number of sports officials in the country.

The club's president Aristides Aristidou and honorary President Pantelakis Pantazis held meetings with the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) and the Jordan Handball Federation (JHF) and discussed the possibility of future cooperation.

It was agreed that Jordan's national women's basketball team would play in Cyprus in July, and that Kefalovryos' women's basketball team would play in Amman in November.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, the club representatives voiced their hope that such competitions would serve teams in both countries.

Kefalovryos, a club which was originally based in the occupied town of Kythrea in northern Cyprus, is now based

in the southeastern towns of Paralimni and Larnaca and is sponsored by KEO, the island's biggest distillery.

Their women's handball team has been Cyprus' champions for the past three years, with eight players being members of the Cypriot national team.

The club's women's basketball team was only formed two years ago and finished fifth among eight competing teams in the first division.

Kefalovryos' men's handball team also competes in the first division.

Despite their handball team's competitions in the European Cup, and cup winners cup in which they have met Czechoslovakia, Romania and Byelorussia, Al Jazireh's tournament will be their basketball team's first competition abroad.

"We hope to have a good presence in the competition," Mr. Aristidou told the Jordan Times. "We will surely benefit from the competition and we are sure that just like our handball team, we will get an advanced standing in our country's next championship."

Al Jazireh's tournament will select best defensive and offensive players, the player with the best attitude and the competition's most valuable player. Rivalry is expected to be quite tough as the five participating teams all have a good record and reputation.

Syria's Al Jala' beat Al Jazireh twice with a margin of 20 points in their last friendly matches in January. The Palestinian select team was defeated twice by Al Jazireh in Amman. While Lebanese Cup champions Homentmen beat Al Jazireh 80-25 in a friendly match back in 1992 when Al Jazireh were ranked third in the Kingdom.

Al Jazireh have since recruited two pivotal players, Jumana Salti and Rana Hussein, who alongside Tala Al Manje, Sahair and the rest of the ambitious team are expected to be well prepared as they play the first round of the women's 1994 championship in early July hoping to retain their title.

Since the JBF only has one yearly championship which is usually concluded in two or three weeks, the few women's teams usually have to host a team to give players an incentive and keep them busy throughout the season.

"We are now thinking global. We can advance our standard only by playing against more experienced teams," Al Jazireh's head coach Fadi Sabab told the Jordan Times.

Jordan's women's champions commenced their season early this year when they played a series of matches in Aleppo, Syria. They met league leaders Al Horriyeh, runners-up Al Yarmouk and Al Jala'.

Players now hope that the newly formed JBF will give more attention to women's teams, especially with the forming of a special committee to seriously supervise women's basketball.

The women's national team last competed in 1983 when women's basketball competitions were put on hold for over six years.

Since then, the former JBF announced the regrouping of the women's team in December 92. However, players are still awaiting for practice to begin someday.

Women's basketball began its latest comeback in the 1989-90 season when three teams, Al Orthodoxy, Al Ahli and Homentmen competed in the championship which was won by Al Orthodoxy in 1991. Al Jazireh joined the women's championship and finished fourth after the three aforementioned teams.

In the 1992 competition, Al Jazireh clinched third place from Homentmen, and in 1993 defied expectations by clinching the title away from Al Orthodoxy.

Therefore, the pressure is now on the newly crowned champions to retain their title and possibly represent the Kingdom in the Arab Clubs' Championship.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's titles, they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division and under-19 competition in 1993.

Al Jazireh's women's championship will undoubtedly bring a welcome change to the women's basketball arena in the Kingdom. The last foreign teams to compete in Jordan were Sarayet Ramallah and Al Catholic of Bethlehem who were hosted by Al Jazireh, and Lebanon's Homentmen who were hosted by their Jordanian counterparts — Homentmen 'Amman in the summer of 1992.

Mr. Pantazis thanked Al Jazireh for inviting his team and extended the invitation to Jordanian teams to "taste Cypriot hospitality."

## AC Milan clinches 3rd straight title

ROME (AP) — AC Milan became only the second team since World War II to win three straight Italian league titles, earning a 2-2 draw with Udinese late Sunday for its 14th "Scudetto."

Zvonimir Boban and striker Marco Simone both scored to raise Milan's record to 19-11-2 and 49 points, five more than Juventus who only two games remaining in the season.

"My first championship was a novelty, the second very difficult, but this one seemed downright impossible," coach Fabio Capello said.

The title capped off a triumphant year for Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi, who led a conservative alliance to victory in general elections last month and appears to be in line to become Italy's next premier.

More than 70,000 joyous fans celebrated on the rainy pitch at Milan's San Siro Stadium.

Milan's domination of the Italian league over the past three years has been undone only by Torino since 1946. The Turin club won four straight titles from 1946 to 1949 before a plane crash in May that year wiped out the team. Torino won five straight titles including their 1943 crown, owing to the suspension of league play in 1944 and 1945.

Juventus also won five



Colombian player Faustino Asprilla (right) playing for Parma is challenged by Cagliari's Matteo Villa (left) and Aldo Firicano (centre) during their Sunday match. Parma won by 3-1.

straight titles from 1931-35.

Sunday's four goals were scored within a wild 10 minutes of the second half, the last an equaliser of Udinese defender Baggio Rossitto off a rebound.

Boban's 16-metre blast put the Devils on top in the 16th but an error by winger Gianluigi Lentini set up Udinese forward Stefano Borgonovo's equaliser nine minutes later.

Simone struck from 18 metres two minutes later to restore the lead but Rossitto's follow-up goal saved the draw for Udinese, the only first-

division team not to have lost to the Devils in the past three years.

In other matches Sunday, Juventus routed Lazio of Rome 6-1; Sampdoria of Genoa beat Internazionale of Milan 3-1; Parma knocked off Cagliari 3-1; a remounted Torino 1-1; Napoli drew with Atalanta of Bergamo 1-1; Roma beat Fiorentina 3-1; Foggia shut out Genoa 3-0; and Reggina beat Lecce 4-2.

The 36 goals scored Sunday were the most in any round this season.

## Berasategui beats Courier to capture Nice Open title

NICE, France (AP) — Alberto Berasategui, a 20-year-old Spaniard, upset Jim Courier 6-4, 6-2 to win the final of the \$300,000 Nice Open tennis tournament.

Berasategui, ranked 34th in the world, beat the no. 4 ranked Courier...after playing for more than two hours in the morning semifinal.

"I was tired but being in the final against Courier gave me confidence," Berasategui said. "I had nothing to lose. I was in the final and if I lost, I lost against Courier."

Courier, second seeded, breezed with a 6-0, 6-3 victory over Marc Rosset of Switzerland in a little more than an hour ending well before the other semifinal.

However it was Berasategui who took the final, his second tournament victory on the circuit. Last year he won the Sao Paulo tournament, beating Dosedel in the final.

"I didn't care if I won or lost," Berasategui said. "Maybe that's why I played so well."

I didn't seem so at the start, Courier won the first game with three service winners and an ace.

However things began to change on Courier's next service, as he struggled through eight deuces to finally hold.

Berasategui was not making mistakes while unforced errors began to creep into Courier's game. Berasategui kept finding the angles and the lines and Courier would be forced into errors.

"He hit the ball as hard as he could and he was hitting the lines," Courier said. "I never saw anyone hit the lines like he was doing."

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Morocco sets mark in relay championship

LITHORO, Greece (AP) — A strong Moroccan team Sunday set a new record at the 2nd World Road Relay Championship, easily outstripping favoured Ethiopia and Kenya. The team of Ibrahim Jabour, Larbi Khatibi, Hicham el Guerrouj and Olympic gold medalist Brahim Boutayeb and Khalid Skah covered the 42.2 kilometres in 1 hour 57 minutes and 56 seconds. The previous mark of 2:00:02 was set by Kenya at the first championships in Madeira, Portugal, in 1992. Ethiopia was a distant second in 1:58:51 despite the presence of world 10,000-metre champion Haile Gebrselassie. Kenya, the previous champion, was just over a minute behind, finishing in 2:00:51.

#### Runner collapses, dies during race

LONDON (AP) — A runner in Sunday's London Marathon collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack, race officials said. The 52-year-old Englishman had reached the 19-mile stage of the race around central London when he fell. According to race Director Chris Brasher, a resuscitation team was on the spot but failed to revive the man. He is the fourth race-related fatality in the 14-year history of the race, three being runners and the other a spectator. The first was in 1990 and there were two last year. The dead man, whose identity has not yet been released, was one of 26,316 runners who started the London Marathon, a record number for the race. Brasher said their ages ranged from 18-87.

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMMAM HIRSHI  
1997 Tourna Made & Services Inc.

#### THAT LITTLE EDGE

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♠ A J 7 8

♥ J 8

♦ 4 3 2

♣ J 5 4 3

EAST

♠ K 9 4

♥ Q 10 4

♦ 2 7 6

♣ K 10 9 8

SOUTH

♠ Q 5 2

♥ A 7

♦ K Q J 10

♣ A Q 2

The bidding:

South West North East

2 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠.

The more tricks that have been played, the more everyone should know about the lie of the cards.

Therefore, if you want to put anyone to a guess, whether you are the declarer or one of the defenders, the earlier you do so the more likely you are to succeed. There's a subtle variation of that theme at the core of today's hand.

The auction was straightforward. North's three clubs were a probe for a 4-4 spade fit, but when South denied a major, North settled for game in no trump.

West's heart opening lead struck declarer's only weak spot. South could count eight fast winners, so the contract hinged on a finesse in one of the black suits. How would you go about the play and which finesse should you take?

One possible line is to run your diamond winners and hope a defender makes a revealing discard. Over the years, however, we have learned not to put too much faith in opponents' signals in these situations. All you are likely to achieve is to give the opponents a count of your winners, making the defense easier.

We prefer making a defender guess at trick two. After winning the ace of hearts, we would lead the queen of spades immediately. It would take a brave West to play low in tempo when holding the king and looking at the ace-jack in dummy, so if West does not cover, we would rise with the ace and play East for the king of clubs. A successful finesse in that suit delivers the fulfilling trick.

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2nd ANNUAL FESTIVAL  
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"ART... MUSIC & HUMAN RIGHT"  
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ITS MIME PERFORMING TROUPE



WEDNESDAY 20 APRIL 1994  
TICKETS SOLD AT DOOR  
J.D. 5 FAMILY  
J.D. 4 FAMILY  
J.D. 3 BOYS & GIRLS  
AT 8 P.M.

TODAY	Cinema	Tel.: 634144	Cinema	Tel.: 699238	Cinema	Tel.: 677420	Tel.: 618274 - 618275	Tel.: 675571	Nabil & Hisham's	Tel.: 625145
	PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
	<b>TOM &amp; JERRY</b> Invite you to attend "Their Movie" as of at <b>CINEMA PHILADELPHIA</b> Tel: 634144/634149 Performances: 11:00, 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30		Corey Haim & Corey Feldman, Nicole Eggert in <b>BLOWN AWAY</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30		<b>CONCORD '1'</b> <b>MR. JONES</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 <b>CONCORD '2'</b> <b>The Assassin</b> Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30		The grand opening of Amoun Theatre April 20 1994 Political comedy <b>Forbidden X Forbidden</b>		Coming soon Abu Awad in: The new comedy play: <b>"A PUNCTURED BAG"</b> Directed by Ghassan Al Mashini	The Political Satire <b>"Ahlam Arab Summit Conference"</b>



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## HCST, France sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Monday between the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST) and the French government under which terms the French government will present equipment and offer training to HCST personnel. The agreement, which was signed by HCST Secretary General Hani Al Mulki and French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bagoet stipulates that the French government will provide to the council a multiscope computer and will train Jordanian personnel to use the system. Another agreement was also signed among the French government, the HCST and the Department of Antiquities providing for conducting topographic studies on the ancient city of Petra.

## Crown Prince meets Canadian team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Monday received a delegation representing the Canadian National Defence College currently visiting Jordan. Prince Hassan paid tribute to relations between Jordan and Canada and stressed the need for Canada to continue its constructive role in the Middle East peace process. He also affirmed the keenness of His Majesty King Hussein to cement relations with Canada.

## Princess Sarvath receives Mrs. Berri

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, chairperson of the Young Women's Muslim Society, Monday received at the Royal Court wife of Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri. Mrs. Berri earlier visited the society and met with its administrative board to be acquainted with its role and objectives.

## Saudis ban political material during Haj

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia said Monday it would punish any pilgrims found carrying banned political books, pictures or leaflets at this year's annual Haj pilgrimage. An Interior Ministry statement, carried by the official Saudi Press Agency, said some pilgrims had been found carrying such banned material when they arrived in the kingdom to perform this year's Haj due in May. "The ministry points out that such material is absolutely banned... and hopes that everybody will abide by this and those who do not will be punished... according to the laws of the kingdom," the statement said. It gave no other details. Saudi Arabia bans all forms of political activity during the Haj, which is performed by an estimated two million Muslims. In 1987, some 400 people, mainly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in clashes in Mecca between security forces and Iranians holding a political rally. The Saudi statement did not give the nationalities of the pilgrims it said were carrying the banned political material. Iran's ruling clergy often urge pilgrims to hold rallies at the Haj to condemn what they see as the main enemies of Islam — the United States and Israel. Iranian pilgrims are also known to carry pictures of their Muslim leaders. A dispute arose this year between Iran and Saudi Arabia over the number of Iranians allowed to perform the pilgrimage. A Saudi Haj official said on Friday that the kingdom has told Iran its pilgrims will not be allowed to hold any political rallies or activities this year.

## Two German tourists killed in Libya

TUNIS (R) — Two German tourists were killed in Libya in an attack that occurred around April 9, an official at the German embassy in Tripoli told Reuters by telephone. The official said the Libyan authorities had informed the German embassy that a man named Becker and his wife, both about 60, were attacked in Libya's coastal city of Sirte. The Libyans described the attacker as an "unknown" person. "The German consulate is now preparing the coffins to repatriate them," the official added. He said the embassy had only scant details on the killings as supplied by the Libyan foreign ministry. "Libyan authorities are reluctant to give us details," he said.

## Photographer killed in S. African shooting

TOKOZA, South Africa (R) — A South African news photographer was killed and two were wounded covering fighting in Tokoza township on Monday, witnesses said. Ken Oosterbroek of the Star newspaper was killed, editor Peter Sullister confirmed. Greg Marinovich, a South African working for Newsweek magazine was hit in the chest and underwent surgery. Reuters photographer Judo Ngwenya was hit in the arm. Natalpruit hospital said Mr. Marinovich, a Pulitzer Prize winner for pictures taken in township violence, was "alive and stable." Mr. Ngwenya reported that he himself was not seriously wounded. Witnesses said the three were caught in crossfire between Zulu hostel dwellers and members of the national peacekeeping force in the township where fighting between hostel dwellers and rivals broke out early on Monday.

## Russia lacks money for weather satellite

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said on Monday it lacked the money to launch an advanced geostationary weather satellite needed to complete a global meteorological network. Pavel Zlyin, an official at Russian weather monitoring service Rosgidromet, said the Elektro satellite could have been launched last year had the money been available. "The Elektro and booster are still in Moscow and I do not know when they will be delivered to the Baikonur cosmodrome," Mr. Zlyin said by telephone. He did not say how much the launch would cost. The satellite, designed to stay above the same spot on earth at an altitude of 36,000 kilometres, is supposed to transmit data about ocean temperature, wind speed and track the development of cyclones and hurricanes. The satellite is intended to hover above the Indian Ocean, covering territory from Germany in the west to Khabarovsk in the east and from the northeastern Russian of Anadyr to Antarctica. Europe, the United States and Japan created an international system of geostationary satellites in 1977 which covers almost the entire world, but the Elektro satellite is needed to complete the jigsaw.

## 'Romeo and Juliet' moves to avoid attack

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Wherefore art thou, Romeo? In Jerusalem, he grabbed Juliet off an Old City balcony and sought refuge in a discotheque, where young lovers can kill themselves in peace. Metaphorically, at least, Eran Baniel, a theatre director, announced Monday that he was moving a joint Palestinian-Israeli production of Shakespeare's classic love tragedy from the walls of the Old City in Arab East Jerusalem to an abandoned discotheque in the Jewish part of the city. "The security situation is very sensitive," Mr. Baniel explained to the Associated Press. "We thought it would be better to move it west." The Old City's cobbled byways, stairways — oh yes, and balconies — would have been far from ideal for a live performance when the show opens in June. But Mr. Baniel was concerned that a recent spate of Arab-Israeli violence would reach his actors if they performed in the open air.

## Papandreou leaves for official U.S. visit

ATHENS (AP) — Socialist Premier Andreas Papandreou left on Monday for an official visit to the United States, an honour the White House denied him in the past. Mr. Papandreou, who once called the United States a "metropolis of imperialism," has made good relations with the United States a priority since his reelection in October. "I will give a great battle on our matters of national interest, a friendly battle of course, because the climate will be good, we will also make every effort to improve Greek-American relations. They are good, we can improve them," Mr. Papandreou said Sunday. During his 1981-89 administration, Mr. Papandreou had not been invited to the White House by presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush. But he said after meeting with President Clinton at a summit in January that the climate had changed.



JERUSALEM: Muslim and Christian clergymen, Jordanian, Palestinian and Arab, Muslim and foreign representatives Monday attend a celebration in Amman marking the completion of renovation at the Dome of the Rock Mosque in Jerusalem (see page 1) (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

## Lebanon has its own plan to resettle Palestinian refugees

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouze said in an interview published Monday that a plan to remove the 400,000 Palestinian refugees in Lebanon was under international consideration.

The four-point plan envisages their resettlement in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho, other Arab countries, the United States, Canada and Australia, Mr. Bouze said.

The minister bared the plan in an interview published by Beirut's daily Al Sir. Spokesmen for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and rival Palestinian factions backed by Syria declined comment on the report.

Mr. Bouze said 20 per cent of the estimated 400,000 Palestinians in Lebanon could be absorbed in the Gaza-Jericho area, which is expected to become autonomous later this year.

He said a scheme under which refugees in Lebanon would join kin in Egypt, Syria, Jordan and the United States and Canada could absorb another 25 per cent.

"Another item of the plan

requires Canada and Australia to give priority in their immigration laws to Palestinians living in Lebanon," Mr. Bouze said.

"Wealthy and under-populated Arab countries with abundant resources are politically and morally bound to take labourers from among Lebanon-based Palestinians rather than importing workers from Asia for Africa," Mr. Bouze added.

He did not name countries considering the resettlement plan but said: "It is under discussion on a regional and international level."

Mr. Bouze said the plan only covers Palestinians in Lebanon, excluding those in Syria, Jordan, Egypt and Iraq.

The foreign minister said Lebanon would never be able to permanently take in the Palestinians because that would drastically tip the balance in favour of Muslims among its four million population.

A Lebanese reconciliation charter, which embodied political reforms that gave Muslims an equal share of power with the long-dominant Christians to end the 1975-1990 civil war,

prohibits naturalising Palestinian refugees.

The Palestinians played a major role in the first seven years of the civil war, when PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat managed to transform Lebanon into his main power base.

Mr. Arafat and his estimated 8,000 guerrillas were evacuated under U.N.-led multinational protection in 1982, when Israel invaded Lebanon to route the PLO.

Mr. Bouze said the Beirut government has been reluctant to allow the United Nations to rebuild the damaged sections of the 13 refugee camps in Lebanon destroyed in various stages of the civil war.

"If you allow the Palestinians to build anywhere in Lebanon... you are unwittingly moving in the direction of settling them for good," Mr. Bouze said.

About 200,000 of the refugees live in camps and are registered with the United Nations as refugees. The rest live and work in cities like Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon with special work permits that do not provide them with social security privileges.

## King: No peace without Jerusalem

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Israeli borders, Jerusalem is the thorniest problem in Israel's negotiations with Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the PLO.

Repeating a pledge made during a speech he made on Aug. 6, 1964, when the first phase of restoration at the Al Aqsa Mosque was completed, the King said, "Palestine has always figured prominently in our national construction and defence efforts because Jordan lives for Palestine and for its sake stands ready to sacrifice itself."

In his speech, which was carried live in Jordan Television, the King emphasised the Hashemite links to Jerusalem dating back to the Prophet Mohammad, who launched a nocturnal flight to heaven from the rock encased in the Dome of the Rock Mosque.

Speaking only days after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin publicly questioned Jordan's tolerance of the presence

in the Kingdom of members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, the King invoked the name of the Muslim warrior after whom Hamas has named its military wing, Izzedeen Al Qassam.

"To all our martyrs there, beginning with Izzedeen Al Qassam to the most recent worshippers at the Al Ibrahim Mosque, we invoke Allah's mercy and compassion," the King said.

The King praised those who had died in the defence of Arab and Muslim rights in Jerusalem and said, "... we shall remain faithful to the cause for which they gave their lives."

"We say no to any peace formula that does not secure the historical and legitimate rights of the people of Palestine on their sacred and national soil," the King said.

Referring to the acts of terror, arson and murder committed by fanatics against Muslims

at holy shrines in the occupied territories the King spoke of the restoration of "malicious rights of the people of Palestine... so that no worshipper there would ever be terrorised by a murderer; so that Salaheddin's pulpit would never be set ablaze by a bigot; so that children would never be sprayed at point blank..."

Sheikh Mohammad Rashad Al Sherif recited verses from the Koran to commemorate Monday's occasion. Haidar Mahmoud recited a poem written specially for the occasion. Minister of Awkaf Abdul Salam Al Abadi, head of the Awkaf in Jerusalem Abdul Azziz Salhab and construction chief Henry Johnston and grand mufti of the Sultanate of Oman Sheikh Mohammad Al Khalili addressed the audience.

The King also presented gifts to members of a committee in charge of the Dome of the Rock renovation.

## Hamas activists' passports withheld

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representatives in Amman of Izzedeen Al Qassam's Brigades' claim of responsibility for the heroic acts in Afula and Hadera," the statement said.

"Rabin and his government know very well that the Qassam's Brigades conduct, plan and execute their activities from the occupied territories," the statement said, adding that "his failure to put an end to these attacks, and the revealing of his deception in the settlement process has caused him to use these attacks to issue a warning to Jordan."

Hamas said that Mr. Rabin needed to warn Jordan to achieve the following objectives:

— Direct attention away from the failure of his security measures and his oppressive measures in putting an end to the heroic attacks by the Qassam Brigades.

— Use the "American sword" to pressure Jordan towards signing a unilateral agreement with his government similar to the one signed in Oslo, and this warning falls in line with the policy of the U.S. administration which uses the naval blockade on Aqaba as a way to pressure Jordan for the same purpose.

Despite the strong language against Israel and Mr. Rabin's government, the Hamas statement appeared to set a precedent in opening the door for bargaining with Israel.

Stressing that the attacks against Israeli civilians were in retaliation against the Hebron massacre of Palestinian worshippers, Hamas said that this was not a policy but the "exception."

"Hamas is ready to reconsider this exception on the condition that the enemy's prime minister, his government and his army halt completely all killings of unarmed civilians from our people," the statement said.

"We are not against peace," the statement added, "but the peace offered by the government of the enemy is not peace but a consolidation of occupation and the injustice falling on our people."

"While we in Hamas know

well that the Oslo agreement is nothing but humiliating surrender from the PLO... we think that the right beginning would be on the following foundations," the statement added.

Hamas demanded the "full Israeli withdrawal from our Palestinian land and dismantling and removal of all settlements, the holding of full and free elections in the West Bank and Gaza to select the representatives of our people and their leadership."

The chosen leadership will be the one that represents the aspirations and hopes of our people and will decide on the ensuing steps," the statement concluded in what most analysts termed as an indication that Hamas was proposing itself as an alternative leadership to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, through the results of the elections and by deduction the side to conduct negotiations with Israel.

## Jerusalem 'permanent capital'

(Continued from page 1)

to be able to confront the challenges." Yemeni Minister of Awkaf and Islamic Affairs Ghaleb Al Quraishi delivered an address

at the banquet lauding the role played by His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan in maintaining Islamic holy places in Jerusalem.

## Iraqi leader sees better times ahead

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, his country crippled by U.N.-imposed Gulf War sanctions, said in a statement on Monday prosperity was just around the corner.

"We believe that affluence is coming," he declared in a message published in Baghdad newspapers, which also splashed a picture of President Saddam flanked by his two sons Uday and Qusay and top military brass.

President Saddam, whose army invaded Kuwait in 1990 only to be driven out by U.S.-led allies, said members of the U.N. Security Council who want to continue sanctions imposed after the invasion were like someone, "holding the blade of a sword with his fist."

"Iraq's enemies will either loosen their grip or have their fingers chopped off," President Saddam said.

The United Nations cut off sales of oil exports and imposed other sanctions for the invasion.

The sanctions have caused widespread deprivation, rampant inflation and skyrocketing prices, to the point where the government wound up providing every Iraqi family with a cheap chicken during the fasting month of Ramadan.

But President Saddam predicted good times ahead: "Affluence is coming... not because the ungodly people are intent to lift the veil."

The Security Council will next review the sanctions in May.

Two teams of U.N. weapons inspectors flew to Baghdad on Monday as the United Nations sought to speed up preparations for long-term monitoring prerequisite to lifting the oil embargo.

In its latest diplomatic drive, Iraq has sent envoys to Arab states saying it had done all that is required to have the sanctions lifted.

Informative Minister Hamed Yousef Hummadi said on Saturday during a visit to Yemen that Iraq had dropped its claim to Kuwait as Iraq's 19th province.

A representative of the U.N. regional field headquarters in Bahrain said a new seven-

member chemical weapons inspection team and a 14-member ballistic missiles team left Bahrain on a U.N. plane on Monday morning.

Two other teams are already here. It is rare for U.N. teams covering all four prescribed weapons programmes to be in Baghdad at the same time, a sign of the quickening pace of U.N. activity.

"It's clearly much more in April than in March," a U.N. representative said.

U.N. officials would not give a reason, but Iraq criticises the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) and the United Nations in general for delays in lifting the oil embargo, which the U.N. Security Council has linked to compliance on weapons.

For most of the period after the 1990/91 Gulf war, UNSCOM had cited Iraqi obstructionism as the reason for its refusal to certify compliance by Baghdad.

Iraq has now agreed to the long-term monitoring that seeks to ensure it is not resuscitating its weapons programmes.

The U.N. plans to monitor scores of plants and facilities, many scattered around Iraq, in many cases with cameras and other sensors.

UNSCOM will then require at least six months if not a year of testing Iraq's good intentions on the monitoring.

Germany's Horst Reeps is heading the chemical team, the 74th UNSCOM mission.

American John Larrabee is heading the missile group, which had left Baghdad on April 8 and written reports in Bahrain before heading back on Monday for a second phase of preparations.

He aims to complete recommendations on monitoring for his sector by the end of May.

Nuclear and biological weapons teams are already in Iraq.

Once UNSCOM declares Iraqi compliance on weapons, it is still not guaranteed that the oil embargo will be lifted. The United States has sought to add additional conditions, including respect of Kuwait's borders and of human rights in Iraq.

## Israel says it does not seek 'commercial domination'

MUSCAT (AP) — Arabs should not fear that Israel will try to dominate the Middle East commercially if they make peace with the Jewish state, Israel's deputy foreign minister says.

Yossi Beilin, on a landmark visit to Oman for a water-sharing conference, added however, in an interview with the Associated Press that steps towards full normalisation of Arab-Israeli ties should be gradual to help allay such fears.

"There is a feeling in the Arab states, some of them, that Israel may try to dominate the economies of the Arab World, a kind of neocolonialism," he said in the Sunday night interview.

"We should not create this feeling or encourage this fear," said Mr. Beilin, a prominent Israeli peace negotiator.

The creation of a Middle East common market patterned after the European Union (EU) should be "last on our agenda" because of the deep-seated mistrust between Arabs and Israelis, the product of decades of armed conflict and inflammatory rhetoric.

"Today, there is such a big gap that I am afraid that... the suspicions will just rise," Mr. Beilin said.

"We should be satisfied just by having a common infrastructure which is very difficult too and very ambitious, too," he said, adding that basic cooperation was possible in the fields of energy, water, telecommunications and road and air links.

Mr. Beilin and his 18-member team are the first Israelis to come to the Gulf on an open invitation.

They are attending a 41-nation conference on the Mid-

dle East's scarce water supplies, which experts warn could trigger future conflicts unless the regional countries manage them together.

The multilateral meeting is being held in the framework of the 2½-year-old Arab-Israeli peace talks sponsored by the United States and Russia.

Other multilateral meetings in different countries deal with the environment, refugees, disarmament and regional economy.

Many Arab states, including Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Yemen, are attending the conference, although two of Israel's key adversaries, Syria and Lebanon, are boycotting. A Palestinian delegation is present, but Jordan sent only an observer.

"The multilateral talks are a success story because we can talk there about the real things in life — not only about the political arrangements but also about the future generations, things like water and environment," said Mr. Beilin.

"We're speaking about joint projects and the ability to work together towards a joint future, and we also refer very concrete issues facing us like flights over the Gulf of Aqaba... to the possibility of tourism package tours involving Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and Egypt."

He noted that "an electricity grid to link the Middle East... may save us all some money."

Mr. Beilin noted that a multilateral session in late 1992 gave him the opportunity to initiate the secret contacts that led to an open dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

## Israel could return Golan

(Continued from page 1)

believe the prime minister has seen any such plan."

Mr. Rabin told Parliament Israel was drawing up serious plans for a staged withdrawal from the Golan Heights in preparation for a resumption of peace talks with Syria.

He said that negotiations would likely resume at the end of the month, coinciding with a visit to the region by Mr. Christopher.

Mr. Rabin alleged that Syria

had not yet shown "an appropriate degree of openness and flexibility to allow a breakthrough and discussion of substance about a peace agreement."

Mr. Rabin also reiterated that Israel would be willing to withdraw forces from Lebanon if the Lebanese army succeeded over a six-month period of preventing attacks by guerrillas.

Mr. Rabin said Israel was making serious plans for the negotiations to resume at the end of April.

## COLUMN

## Gielgud upstages theatre awards

LONDON (R) — The Royal National Theatre took 10 of Britain's prestigious Olivier Theatre Awards Sunday. But the awards night was upstaged by stage, film and television actor Sir John Gielgud, who celebrated his 90th birthday Thursday. Janet Holmes A Court, chairwoman of Stoll Moss Theatres which own many of London's leading theatres, told the awards ceremony that the Globe Theatre in the heart of London's West End would be renamed Gielgud's Theatre in his honour. Gielgud, who rejected offers of a gala celebration and spent his 90th birthday quietly at home, was not at the awards ceremony in London's Palladium Theatre but newspapers said he was delighted by the tribute. The National Theatre dominated the awards named after the late British actor Lord Olivier. In what the Times newspaper called a victory of government-subsidised theatre over the commercial theatre, it took four awards for Stephen Sondheim's musical Sweeney Todd — the best musical revival — and four for the play Macbeth — the best revival. British playwright Tom Stoppard won a Best New Play Award for the National Theatre production Arcadia, beating American playwrights, David Mamet, Tony Kushner and Arthur Miller. But Andrew Lloyd Webber's Sunset Boulevard, a hit which is still running, was beaten to the Best Musical prize by City of Angels, which has closed.

## Charles decries image of 'showbiz monarchy'

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles decried the British royal family's image of a "showbiz monarchy" and blamed the media for fostering the unwanted reputation. "The media helped to create the showbiz idea. They invented it, we didn't. We couldn't fulfill their expectations," Prince Charles, 45, said in the Mail on Sunday. The heir to the throne was interviewed by former deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, Roy Hattersley. Prince Charles was described as a vulnerable and sensitive man who is still scarred by the way he has been portrayed over his separation in 1992 from his wife of 11 years, Princess Diana, and his much-publicised intimate telephone calls with another woman. The interview also said Prince Charles has told friends he feels "profoundly depressed" by the thought that his destiny can only be fulfilled by the death of his mother, queen Elizabeth II. Prince Charles also dismissed a suggestion that the British monarchy should reform itself to be more like what Scandinavians call their "people's monarchy." He described the Scandinavian royals as "grander, more pompous and more hard to approach than we are."

## Japan princess will not rush to get wed

TOKYO (R) — Princess Nori, youngest child of Japanese Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, turned 25 Monday and criticised speculation by the tabloid press about her love life. Responding in writing to questions put by Japanese court reporters, Princess Nori said speculation about prospective marriage partners could disrupt a number of lives. She hinted she felt no particular rush to get married soon. Princess Nori said the fuss over her brother Prince Naruhito's choice of bride had set a regrettable precedent.

## Clinton marks anniversary of Ford Mustang

CONCORD, NC (R) — President Bill Clinton got to drive his 1967 Ford Mustang convertible with the "real '60s colour" Sunday and then toured a show honouring the 30th anniversary of the car model. Mr. Clinton, who was driven over the steeply-banked Charlotte Motor Speedway in his black presidential limousine, hopped out and got behind the wheel of the car he and his step-brother Roger owned back in Arkansas. With Secret Service agent David Carpenter at his side, the man who said later "nobody lets me drive any more," got behind the wheel and stepped on the gas, although never going more than a few miles an hour so he could acknowledge the crowd along the railing.